THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION IN PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN WEST AFRICA: A CASE STUDY OF GHANA

BY

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(10598696)

THIS DISSERTATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON, IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

LEGON    JULY 2018
DECLARATION

I, SHENNEL APPIAH, do hereby declare that this dissertation is the end product of my own research under the supervision of Professor Kwaku Danso-Boafo of the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD), University of Ghana towards the award of a Master of Arts (MA) in International Affairs and that, to the best of my knowledge, it neither contains materials previously published by another person nor materials which have been accepted for the award of any other degree by this or any other university except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

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(STUDENT)                       (SUPERVISOR)

DATE: ..............................  DATE: ..............................
DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to the Almighty God and my family for their immense contribution, sacrifice and prayers in seeing to it that, this work becomes a reality and a success.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My greatest and profound gratitude goes to the Almighty God for granting me the enablement, grace and favour to carry out this study successfully, may His name be praised.

I cannot allude to the success of this study without acknowledging and appreciating the services and efforts of my supervisor; Prof. Kwaku Danso-Boafo who contributed greatly towards the success of the study.

My appreciation will never be complete without acknowledging these wonderful people who contributed in diverse ways to the success of this work. My profound gratitude goes to my family and colleagues for their inspirations and support throughout my educational endeavours with particular reference to this study.

To all my colleagues and friends of LECIAD 2016/2017, I am very happy to have been part of this great family, God’s favour, blessings and grace to you all.
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<td>AHTU</td>
<td>Anti-Human Trafficking Unit</td>
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<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
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<td>CID</td>
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<td>ECCAS</td>
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<td>Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection</td>
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<td>NAPTIP</td>
<td>Nigeria’s National Policy on Trafficking in Persons</td>
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<td>NPA</td>
<td>National Plan of Action</td>
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<td>Network of Sex Work Projects</td>
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<td>OHCHR</td>
<td>Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights</td>
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<td>TIP</td>
<td>Trafficking in Persons</td>
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<td>Trafficking Victims Protection Act</td>
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<td>UN</td>
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ABSTRACT

Human trafficking is happening in every corner of the globe. Since it is a hidden crime, the full scale of the menace of human trafficking cannot be definitely detected and tackled by any country on its own. Ghana is not exempted from the universal challenge of trafficking in persons, as Ghana endures as a destination, source and transit country for trafficking in persons. In a quest to control this phenomenon globally, IOM as an intergovernmental organisation concerned with migration issues, has a counter trafficking unit in its country offices that works with states to combat trafficking internally and internationally. This study analyses the extent of collaboration between IOM, the Government of Ghana and other related state institutions in preventing Human Trafficking in West Africa, with specific reference to Ghana. The study is purely qualitative and relies primarily on literature review and interviews for data collection and analyses. Major findings from the study reveal that the activities done by the IOM in cooperation with the Government of Ghana and other agencies to prevent the phenomenon of human trafficking in Ghana included awareness creation, lobbying for effective legislation against human trafficking, promotion of economic development, assisting in capacity building and development of the “FREE TO BE ME” Tool Kit. The intervention by the IOM in preventing human trafficking in Ghana has yielded some successes including sensitization and advocacy through education, and assistance in the formulation of legislative laws to criminalize human trafficking. IOM also assisted in the formation of an Anti-Trafficking Units for both the Ghana Police Service and the Ghana Immigration Service to identify human trafficking cases within and across borders and to also sanction culprits, rescue trafficked victims and help reintegrate them back into society. IOM also implemented capacity building training, workshops and seminars and also promotion of economic development through education, by providing technical and vocational trainings to empower people economically. These achievements serve as deterrent to people involved in human trafficking in Ghana. However, IOM has encountered some challenges in its quest to help prevent human trafficking in Ghana. These challenges include poverty and economic hardships, poor cooperation, and lack of political will on the part of the government. The study therefore concludes that, The IOM has played a significant role in cooperation with other stakeholders in the prevention of human trafficking in Ghana. To this end, the study recommends that the Government of Ghana should continue to collaborate effectively with states and other international agencies such as the IOM, UNICEF, UNODC, among others, to effectively help tackle the menace of human trafficking in Ghana.
CHAPTER ONE

RESEARCH DESIGN

1.1 Background to Research Problem Statement

International Relations principally emerged to foster international cooperation among countries in order to manage global threats or crises that beset the international system.\(^1\) In an international system with the absence of a central authority regulating it, international security is one of the main driving forces that helps keep the system together. For many years, security was largely conceptualized in terms of national security issues relating to the territorial integrity of borders, sanctity of sovereignty, safety of government and continued existence of the state.\(^2\) However, after the Cold War, the scope and definition of security, even international security, happen to have been expanded and considered in a more holistic term, placing emphasis on human security dimensions.\(^3\) The traditional sense of security, largely perceived in military requisite and external to state, has given way to other matters that are transnational in nature, and affect human security, such as proliferation of small arms and light weapons, organized crime, human rights, migration related security threats, among others.\(^4\)

Security, though not discarding its traditional notion, has increasingly been defined in transnational and human security terms based on upsurge in cross-border issues including money laundering, terrorism, human trafficking, human smuggling, drugs, weapons, kidnapping, arms trafficking and the like that affect countries globally. Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the US in 2001, some dysfunctional aspects of migration associated with terrorism, human trafficking and money laundering have been perceived as transnational perils to world security and peace.\(^5\) This research
is concerned with the menace of trafficking in persons, the dangers it proposes to the rights of victims and the efforts of the international community; specifically, the role the International Organization for Migration (IOM), an intergovernmental organisation concerned with issues on migration has played in preventing this cruel business in human commodity in Ghana.

Human trafficking is the prohibited trade in human beings for the purposes of forced labour or commercial sexual abuse. It is a modern-day form of slavery, an act that comprises the illicit movement of persons from one country to another or internally from one area of a state to another for exploitative purposes. The victims are often exploited for prostitution, slavery, forced labour or removal of human organs. Since its abolition in 1800, many people today, perceive slavery as a thing of the past, but this social canker rests all too real in today's world in various forms such as child labour, forced prostitution, trafficking for organs, forced labour and others. The ordeals and numbing effects of the cruelties Africa experienced during the slave trade for four centuries before its abolition are better forgotten than relived. However, it is a sad commentary on human civilization that our twenty-first century is presently bedevilled by modern day forms of trade in humans under dehumanizing conditions.

Trafficking in persons was an European concept which denoted the trafficking of women for sexual exploitation. It was always considered a gender-based practice as females in the 1900s were usually trafficked mostly for sex trade, and to a less extent, domestic labour. However, the international community realizing that men and children were also trafficked and exploited for forced labour, based on the wants of the destination, ballooned the position of human trafficking
on the radar screens of international diplomacy. Today boys are equally being trafficked for sexual and forced labour exploitation.

Typically, millions of persons are being trafficked annually; billions of dollars are being raked; and the dastardly practice is increasing. “According to the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)” in its 2016 report, “the term modern slavery has recently been used in the context of different practices or crimes such as trafficking in persons, forced labour, and slavery, as well as child labour, forced marriages and others. The common denominator of these crimes is that they are all forms of exploitation in which one person is under the control of another.” Based on the global interest in trafficking of persons, Walk Free Foundation, an advocacy organisation against trafficking in persons and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in collaboration with the IOM, in a report released in September 2017, estimated that some 40.3 million people became victims of modern-day “slavery” in 2016. Records of estimated victims of trafficking vary world-wide due to challenges in gathering precise statistics on the number of trafficked victims, public mix-up, and the clandestine and illegal nature of the phenomenon.

“According to the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) 2016 report”, human trafficking is present in every continent, and no country in the world today, is immune. In Africa statistics paint a grim picture of this heartless crime in human commodity, with victims from Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Cameroon seen among the highest numbers of people trafficked to a variety of destinations. West and East Africa are seen as source regions. North Africa is a transit for those who seek entry into Europe and the Middle East, and South Africa is a
destination for persons trafficked within the continent. Equally countries within the West African sub-region such as Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire are becoming destination countries.\textsuperscript{12}

A report in November 2017 by US TV station CNN that sub-Saharan African migrants were being sold off as slaves in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, received international uproar and condemnation from world leaders, and put the spotlight on the plights of victims of human trafficking and migrants. Many African countries are faced with the challenge of their citizens illegally and irregularly migrating and ending up as slaves or victims of human trafficking.\textsuperscript{13} According to Interpol, in November 2017, authorities in Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal, rescued some 500 victims of human trafficking following a series of raids on crime networks engaged in human trafficking.\textsuperscript{14}

There are common factors that fuel human trafficking though they often differ from country to country. These include poor domestic socio-economic conditions which induce forced migration both locally and internationally with the hope of having a better life elsewhere.\textsuperscript{15} Although the effects of human trafficking are serious and evident, some effects are immediate, and others are noticed over time, new victims emerge every day. The effects of human trafficking on states have a rippling effect on the citizens and the government. Resources allocated to help prevent it could have been used in developmental projects. Rule of law, democracy, transparency, and accountability of the state are often questioned.\textsuperscript{16}

Considering the impact human trafficking has on individuals and society, the international community saw it fit to institute a plethora of measures to tackle the menace from the source,
destination and globally. At the beginning of the Millennium, the “Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children”\textsuperscript{17} (also recognised as the Trafficking Protocol/Palermo Protocol) was adopted by resolution A/RES/55/25 on November 15, 2000, by members of the United Nations in Palermo, Italy, following several protocols already adopted in an attempt to combat the global human trafficking phenomenon. The first of such protocols adopted in 1902, was known as the International Agreement for the Suppression of White Slaves. However, the 2000 Palermo Protocol became a global legalised contract supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

The Trafficking in persons Protocol is part of three Protocols adopted to augment the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) launched the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN. GIFT) in March 2007, reminding governments and other stakeholders of their legal responsibility to fight human trafficking. The UN. GIFT sets out to organise states and non-state actors to stop trafficking in persons by eliminating the vulnerability of possible victims and the quest for all forms of abuse. Among its objectives, the UN. GIFT seeks to raise awareness, strengthen prevention and alleviate the reasons that make people vulnerable to trafficking. The UNODC promotes cooperation at all levels and works collectively or partners with the IOM, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) and other intergovernmental organizations to develop the UN. GIFT.\textsuperscript{18}

IOM has over the years worked closely with other intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs), migrants and governments by providing
advice and services on issues of migration including prevention of human trafficking. The objective of this study is to assess the role IOM has played in preventing human trafficking in Ghana, as elaborated in the problem statement below.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Since independence, African countries have experienced sharp economic decline and falling standards of living while experiencing leaps in population growth. These experiences over time have resulted in problems of corruption, poor governance, poverty, hunger, and poor health delivery, causing a large section of Africans to migrate and seek greener pastures in the developed world and parts of Africa that are doing relatively better. Organised criminals have often taken advantage of vulnerable persons to traffic them. Trafficked persons are often victims of abuses such as unlawful confinement, rape, torture, debt bondage, and threat against their family or other people close to them. The unfair treatment, maltreatment, and harsh experiences victims go through affect them physically, psychologically and socially.

To arrest the situation, a motley of organisations have emerged globally to prevent and manage human trafficking. Since trafficking in humans is not only a national problem but also a transnational crisis, it necessitates the coordinated efforts of international organisations collaborating with countries to help initiate and implement counter-trafficking measures. In the African context, human trafficking is more serious because it compounds the structural problems the continent faces in view of its meagre resources. Both local and international efforts are being made by states and the international community to stem the tide of human trafficking through local and international agencies. However, the actors in counter-trafficking appear to be many with
varied focus and ideologies. In Ghana, for example, institutions such as the UNHCR, ECOWAS, Ghana Police Service, Ghana Immigration Service, IOM, among others, are engaged in tackling human trafficking. Besides, their roles vary from prevention to management and rustication of persons and groups involved with human trafficking. It is often not clear who plays what role, and how the efficiency of counter-trafficking strategies and programmes are measured. The study sought to assess the IOM’s role in counter-trafficking measures. As the maxim goes, ‘prevention is better than cure.’ This study therefore sought to find out the role the IOM has played collaboratively to help prevent the canker of human trafficking in West Africa in general and Ghana specifically. For the reasons stated above, the study sought to answer the questions below.

1.3 Research Questions

In this study, an attempt was made to answer the following questions:

a. What is the nature, extent, and effects of human trafficking in Ghana?

b. What are the measures, especially preventive measures, put in place by IOM to help stem Human Trafficking in Ghana?

c. To what extent has IOM acted or collaborated with the Government of Ghana and other relevant state institutions in preventing Human Trafficking in Ghana?

d. What are the challenges and successes of IOM’s endeavours in preventing Human Trafficking in Ghana?

1.4 Research Objectives

The study assessed how the IOM has helped to prevent human trafficking in Ghana. The specific objectives of the study were: to
a. Analyse the extent, nature and effect of human trafficking in Ghana;

b. Examine the measures put in place by the IOM to help prevent Human Trafficking in Ghana.

c. Ascertain the extent of collaboration among the IOM, the Government of Ghana and other related state institutions in Ghana in preventing Human Trafficking in Ghana.

d. Examine the challenges and successes of the IOM’s measures in preventing Human Trafficking in Ghana.

1.5 Rationale of the Study

Human trafficking affects the entire international community. Increasing numbers and worsening levels of violence against trafficked persons suggest that there are gaps in the mechanisms being deployed to address human trafficking. While the issue has received considerable attention from major global governing institutions like the UN, EU, and ILO, this study limited itself to the IOM and the role it has played in preventing human trafficking in Ghana. Prioritizing prevention efforts, one of the IOM’s main areas of focus, would help government to respond effectively to human trafficking. It further pointed out the relevance of cooperating with other non-state actors in dealing with human trafficking in Ghana. The study also sought to contribute to research and knowledge on what the IOM has done to help prevent human trafficking in Ghana.

1.6 Scope of the study

The study covered the activities of the IOM and the role it has played in helping prevent human trafficking in West Africa, with emphasis on its activities in Ghana. It not only covered the measures put in place by the IOM to help prevent human trafficking but also captured the extent
to which the IOM has collaborated with other stakeholders to help prevent human trafficking in Ghana. In view of this, IOM Annual reports, and government reports on human trafficking in Ghana, and other relevant materials were analysed to ascertain the successes, challenges of the IOM’s interventions aimed at curbing human trafficking in Ghana, and also examined the level of cooperation and collaboration the UN migration agency received from government and other stakeholders.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

The theory of International Cooperation guided this study. “The term “cooperation” first appeared in the fourteenth century. “Cooperation”, derived from the Christian Latin cooperatio in the fifteenth century, means a collective endeavour. It is composed of co from cum and operare, meaning “with” or “together,” and “to act” respectively.\textsuperscript{21} To cooperate is to act together, the joining of individual efforts for a common end. Draperi defines it as, “the coordinated activity of agents pursuing different objectives and seeking to establish common rules.”\textsuperscript{22} The IOM is an intergovernmental organisation charged with managing migration issues that may lead to human trafficking; and in doing so, its counter-trafficking unit collaborates with state and non-state agencies to primarily establish the IOM’s respect for human rights.\textsuperscript{23} Importantly, Governments must set the lead on national issues of concern (e.g. human trafficking), to help organisations associated with such issues provide support and guidance to establish a common rule that benefits parties involved.

To further understand what it entails, “Cooperation refers to any collaborative work between people or groups, either voluntary or otherwise. This sense of the term is underlying some words
that are related to the idea of cooperation. Communication, collaboration, coordination, participation, mediation, interaction, and collective action are standard terms in Sociology that presuppose, generally implicitly, cooperation.”

Cooperation may arise due to common welfare objectives or national interests of the state. The need for cooperation is evident in such endeavours as the global postal system; fighting crime, especially transnational crimes; managing ecological threats and joint use of natural resources such as rivers; and the evolution of the international public health system to fight epidemics and pandemics. The essence of cooperation theories is the extent to which the incentives for, or benefits from cooperation can be seen to outweigh the incentives of acting unilaterally. Robert Keohane in his work, After Hegemon, argues that cooperation can develop based on past corresponding interests among states. Keohane adds that, “Intergovernmental cooperation takes place when the policies actually followed by one government are regarded by its partners as facilitating realization of their own objectives, as the result of a process of policy coordination.”

In Helen Milner’s review of cooperation among nations, she mentions Robert Keohane’s definition of cooperation as occurring, “when actors adjust their behaviour to the actual or anticipated preference of others, through a process of policy coordination.” Policy coordination, in her view, implies that the policies of each state have been adjusted to reduce the negative consequence for the other countries. According to her, the concept of cooperation must have two essential elements. Firstly, is the assumption that every actor’s behaviour is focused towards some goal. The goal may not be the same for all actors, but it is an assumed rational behaviour on the part of all.
Secondly, cooperation rewards actors with gains. The kind or magnitude of the gains, she says, may not be the same for each actor but must be mutual. Actors, in helping each other to realise their goal, by adjusting their policies in cooperation with other stakeholders, serve their own interests. She further explains that to get the concept right, it is important to know what cooperation is not. She continues to differentiate among cooperation, conflict and competition. To her, conflict and competition depict actions that are goal-seeking with intentions to obstruct or cut the gains and fulfilment of all involved. She cautions that acting unilaterally without taking into consideration the impact on others, does not depict cooperation. Though the act may not affect the gains of others, such unilateral actions may be uncooperative. The negative implication on others must be considered.  

In international relations, there are two main thoughts on cooperation: the realist and the idealist. The realists argue that given the anarchic nature of the international system driven by national interests, cooperation is only possible to the extent that states allow it, and that gains that accrue from cooperation are relative. The Idealists on the other hand, believe that besides national interests, there are real and functional motives for which cooperation is inevitable. For these reasons gains accruing from cooperation are absolute.  

This study accepts the assumptions of the Idealists on cooperation. In confronting human trafficking, the framework of cooperation is appropriate for the reason that human trafficking is a global crime in terms of reach, practice and victims. It is run by very sophisticated criminal organisations spanning continents with implications for international norms. As such, it cannot be fought successfully by any one government no matter how resourceful that government is. Like
other transnational security threats, an effective fight against human trafficking calls for collaborative efforts of all stakeholders. Governments, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, businesses, academia, civil society, and persons must cooperate and create an effective tool in fighting human trafficking.  

Despite the strength of the theory of cooperation in explaining the essence of stakeholders working together to prevent human trafficking, there are critiques of the theory. They can be grouped into the Liberalists, Idealists and Realists. According to the liberalists, the main obstacle to cooperation is the lack of enough international institutions’ perspectives. Also, the idealists hold the view that cooperation would be much easier to achieve through the formation of international organizations. According to the realists, states will accept institutions only when it is in their national interest to do so. These criticisms imply that organisations are not as powerful as the states which establish them; hence such organisations cannot promote cooperation if a state declines to cooperate. An example is the United Kingdom’s refusal to accept the Euro as its currency because it was not in its interest to do so. This proves that organisations cannot promote cooperation if states decide not to cooperate.

The criticisms notwithstanding, the exposure of intercontinental trafficking networks demands that governments and law enforcement agencies cooperate across borders, on the high seas, within communities and societies to reveal trafficking practices in the transit, source, and destination countries. Contemporarily, there are several organisations active, often in collaboration with government authorities or local NGOs, in conducting research, organizing prevention campaigns, training resource persons including the police, prosecutors, and judges to prevent, prosecute human
traffickers; and providing protection and assistance to trafficked victims. Among these organisations are the “Free the Slaves”, ILO, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Save the Children and IOM. To further the goal of assisting victims and to eradicate trafficking, many countries have launched national action plans that enhance collaborative efforts among government agencies, civil society organisations and foster cooperation with the international community.³⁴

In the case of Ghana, government departments such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration; Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection; Ministry of Tourism; Ministry of Education; and state agencies like Immigration, Customs and Excise, and the Labour Commission, are involved in the counter-trafficking fight.

Regardless of the limitations, the theory of cooperation was suitable for this study because human trafficking is a global phenomenon which affects all countries whether they are source, transit or destination countries. IOM, as an inter-governmental organisation, in its efforts to help prevent human trafficking, collaborates with state agencies, international organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders. Though the IOM works collectively with its country offices to tackle migration issues including human trafficking globally, it also cooperates with individual countries, organisations and persons to tackle human trafficking. Countries reserve the right to collaborate and cooperate with the IOM. However, with the growth in normative issues such as poverty, porous borders, among others, it is important that countries cooperate to help prevent trafficking in persons locally in their own interest, and to a large extent, the interest of the global community.
1.8 Literature Review

This section comprises the review of some related literature on the topic under study. Literature abounds on how to address global human trafficking. However, scanty literature exists on the analysis of the topic in relation to the role and impact of an international organization in preventing the menace in West Africa, with particular reference to the International Organization of Migration (IOM). In regards to this, some of these works are been reviewed to show how they contribute meaningfully to the topic under study, and identify some gaps, which this study attempts to fill.

For the purpose of clarity and better understanding of this study, the literature review was categorized into three (3) main sub-sections. These include Understanding the Notion of Human Trafficking, the Causes of Human Trafficking and the Efforts towards Combating Human Trafficking.

1.8.1 Understanding the Notion of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking, as already indicated, generally connotes the prohibited trade in human beings for the purposes of forced labour or commercial sexual abuse. However, the 2000 “UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children” 35 was the advanced global effort to define human trafficking. Following the ratification of the United Nations Trafficking Protocol, “there is an almost universal agreement on the definition of human trafficking” 36 which scholars and organizations refer to. The United Nations in the trafficking protocol defines human trafficking as follows:

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments
or benefits to achieve the consent of a person. Having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

Alexis Aronowitz, in her study on ‘Human Trafficking, Human Misery: The Global Trade in Human Beings’, establishes that human trafficking is a plague that affects almost every country in the world today. Countries are referred to as destination, transit or source countries or a combination of any or all based on victims. Even though countries often concentrate on intercontinental trafficking in persons, internal migration and exploitation in countries are more likely to be underestimated than cross-border trafficking. Human trafficking patterns differ throughout countries and regions, and often in a state of uncertainty, as to what should be done. Governments tend to focus on trafficking for sexual exploitation, but other forms of exploitation in construction, food industries, fishing, domestic help, manufacturing, and others, exist in many countries. From a global view, Alexis Aronowitz analyses human trafficking, bringing out the extent and nature of the damage caused by such a criminal act.

From a victim's perspective, her book analyses criminal organizations and criminals who engage in human trafficking and exploit their victims. She addresses the market for trafficking and the various groups and forms which have been ignored because of the emphasis placed on sex trafficking. She somewhat delves into other forms such as illegal adoption, trafficking in organs, using the Internet in trafficking, mail-order brides, and child soldiers. With her individual experiences from various parts of the world, she gives actual circumstances throughout her work
using cases she saw, heard or was involved during her travels. She uses these accounts as well as accurate interpretation to address the attributes of human trafficking, how far it goes, and the damage caused so far.\textsuperscript{40} She addresses the prevention strategies, but her work however, does not cover the inability of countries to prioritize the need for collaboration towards prevention of human trafficking in their national developmental policies.

Janice Raymond in her study, \textit{The New UN Trafficking Protocol}, asserted that most countries, especially the less wealthy and sending countries as opposed to receiving ones, sought a definition that protected all victims. The argument raised by countries which have legalised and regulated prostitution and legitimised pimps and brothel lords is that prostitution or sexual exploitation should be omitted from the Protocol and that the definition of trafficking should be limited to forced and coerced trafficking.\textsuperscript{41}

However, the difference between human trafficking and smuggling of persons as forms of irregular or illegal migration are distinct. In smuggling of persons, migrants are aided at a cost by smugglers with entry into other countries and with the consent of persons being smuggled. Smuggling strictly involves crossing borders illegally. Human Trafficking, on the other hand, involves the use of force, threat, deception or coercion making trafficked persons' victims from the onset. With trafficking, migrants do not necessarily have to cross borders because trafficking in persons occurs within countries as well. Both acts involve assistance from middlemen and migrants often end up being exploited.\textsuperscript{42}
Louis Shelley in her work, ‘*Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective*’, generally talks about the global nature of trafficking, pointing out how organized the traffickers are, exposing the qualities of traffickers as well as the means, methods, and customers in the trafficking business. The provision of false documents, retention of the services of visa mills, false marriages, and other subterfuges make it possible for victims to stay in destination countries.\(^{43}\) Considering the disparity and variations of human trafficking in different regions around the world, she concludes that human trafficking will thrive in the twenty-first century because of demographic and economic differences in the world, the rise of conflicts, and a possibility of a global climate change.

The study of human trafficking has attracted several global concerns among governments, international organizations like the UN, scholars and policy makers. Though, the phenomenon of human trafficking has become topical and attracted global concerns due to its increasing global prevalence, there are misconceptions on what is been done by intergovernmental organisations and gaps that characterize the topic especially from the West African perspective, with special reference to Ghana. This gap is what this study sought to fill.

### 1.8.2 Causes of Human Trafficking

Some scholars attribute the cause of human trafficking to certain factors that ‘push’ victims into the trap of being illegally transported from one area to another. Alexis Aronowitz in her study; ‘*Human Trafficking, Human Misery: The Global Trade in Human Beings*’, addresses some causes of human trafficking she refers to as the "push" and "pull" factors. She further explains that the ‘push’ factors refer to lack of employment opportunities, corruption, decline of border controls, economic imbalances among regions of the world, gender and ethnic discrimination, instability in
the political, economic and social conditions in a country, conflict, hopelessness, poverty and the denial of necessities of life, as opposed to the ‘pull’ factors of demand for workers, lofty prospects of changes abroad encouraged by access to the internet and global media, and tales of returning migrants, the hope of higher standards of living, and the perceptions of many in poor communities that there are better opportunities in larger cities or abroad.\textsuperscript{44} Though Aronowitz’s explanation to the "push" and "pull," factors which induce human trafficking is clear, her work doesn’t analyse how these two factors (i.e. ‘pull’ and ‘push’) influences each other.

David Kyle, and Rey Koslowski in their study, \textit{Global Human Smuggling: Comparative Perspectives}, argue that most of the pull or push factors as identified by Aronowitz such as poverty have existed for a very long time and referring to those alone do not justify the phenomenal growth of human trafficking.\textsuperscript{45} Delving deep into the causes and paying particular attention to the various regions, they assert that globalization, the increase in illicit trade, post-Cold War era, and the demand for industrial labour, are factors which have induced global trafficking in persons. They therefore emphasize that though trafficking in persons is built on widespread individual human suffering, it is very difficult to fight because of many human rights issues arising from human trafficking, and therefore referred to the above factors as reasons human trafficking would flourish.\textsuperscript{46}

Thanh-Dam Truong, in her work, ‘\textit{Poverty, Gender and Human Trafficking in sub-Saharan Africa: Rethinking Best Practices in Migration Management}’ argues that economic crises in most countries in sub-Saharan Africa resulted in securing loans from international financial institutions such as the World Bank and IMF in the 1980s and 1990s. However, bailout conditions imposed
by these international financial bodies included strict fiscal controls on government expenses and significant cuts in social programmes, thereby reducing living standards for the poor and the urban middle class in most countries in the region. According to Truong, this situation further provoked different internal crisis trends such as unemployment and poverty which have contributed significantly to the phenomena of human trafficking, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. She explains that the negative effects of poverty lead to low living standards making it difficult for citizens, especially women and children, to afford basic livelihood systems and care domain. She adds that in their quest for better living standards and with high expectation of better opportunities in larger cities or abroad, the pressure to migrate intensifies making them vulnerable and possible victims of trafficking.

Janice Fong identifies and analyses trafficking in women and children from West African countries for sexual exploitation as being the most commonly documented form of exploitation. Globally, women and girls are particularly vulnerable because of the lack of education or employment in the regions. The vulnerability of women and children has contributed considerably to the practice of recruiting them, either by force, abduction, or deception for sexual exploitation or forced labour. The trafficking of children is mostly done, sometimes with the consent of parents, and this makes children susceptible to sexual exploitation and child labour, a growing menace contributing to human trafficking in the West African sub-region.

In the study of human trafficking as a global human security threat, several dimensions and approaches have been adopted or utilized in trying to analyse and understand the causes and prevalence of the phenomenon across the globe. However, its causes are replete with some nuances.
and complexities depending on the region of analysis. As a result, some scholars focus on a feminist approach; which perceives human trafficking in gender terms, e.g. male domination and control over women as well as an extension of domestic violence. Men are often educated and placed in charge of properties, and some socio-cultural practices do not present women as important as men. It is often difficult for women to have access to basic needs that can empower them, making them more vulnerable to human trafficking than men. Other scholars focus on socioeconomic factors such as poverty, hunger, overpopulation whilst others also focus on security and legal issues including border control and policing, illegal migration and prostitution. While some of these approaches have been identified, or utilized in the above scholarly works, there is a gap as to how the phenomenon actually persists in West Africa, with special reference to Ghana. This lacuna is what this study sought to fill.

1.8.3 Efforts at Combating Human Trafficking

Janice Fong’s work on *Literature Review on Trafficking in West and East Africa*, reports on how countries are rated in combating trafficking in persons. The system of ranking is based on three tiers. Tier One is for countries in full compliance with the required standards set by the US for combating global, regional and national human trafficking crises; and Tier Two, for countries trying but not yet fully compliant, and Tier Three for those countries that were failing on both counts. The U.S. government, subsequently, created an additional category, “Tier Two Watch List,” which applies to countries whose governments do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act’s minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards. She lauds their ranking system of the 2004 report, where most of the countries in West Africa featured were in Tier 2 or lower, except Ghana

In the exploration of how international organizations can help curb human trafficking, as well as persuade member states to mobilize resources towards addressing the emerging global security threat, Fong explains that states primarily owe a responsibility to themselves and it is therefore incumbent on them to rid their countries of devastating problems such as human trafficking. Janice Fong, therefore outlines some anti-trafficking legal frameworks which include international instruments, law enforcement, process of recovery for trafficked persons in Africa and sub-Regional effort in combating trafficking. With reference to international instruments, most African countries do not have specific legislation on anti-trafficking in their national laws. However in 2009, to effectively implement the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (United Nations Trafficking Protocol), a framework of action was implemented as a technical assistance tool for member states, based on the objectives of the protocol. The provision in the trafficking protocol, spelt out in 4Ps - Prosecution, Prevention, Protection, and Partnership – embracing national and international cooperation, was adopted by states as global strategies for combating human trafficking. These have been reflected in national, regional and international frameworks and policies aimed at combating the human trafficking phenomenon globally.
Louis Shelley considers the coordinated effort among governments, civil society, the business community, multilateral organizations, and the media as efforts geared towards combating human trafficking.\textsuperscript{59} Also, she commends the effort of a multilateral organization such as the IOM for prioritizing counter trafficking issues and making significant impact in West Africa, but cautions governments to do what is expected of them to protect the lives of their citizens against human trafficking.\textsuperscript{60} She mentions the effort of multilateral organizations and stresses cooperation, which reveals the diversity of actors trying to address the issue of trafficking in persons.

Aderanti Adepoju, in his work, \textit{Reflections on International Migration and Development in sub-Saharan Africa}, states that to respond to trafficking in persons by cooperating and outlining the gaps among governments of countries in the region is essential to combat trafficking.\textsuperscript{61} He talks about how data and information are collected and shared and encourages researchers in the field to exchange information with focus on trafficked victims, using tracer studies.\textsuperscript{62} Though he writes on sub-Saharan Africa and outlines the challenges, the work does not show how sub-Saharan Africa can take full advantage of efforts of intergovernmental organizations to prevent human trafficking nationally. His work focuses on collective effort amongst countries in the sub region.\textsuperscript{63} Thanh Dam Truong analyses how NGOs and international organisations intervene based on their understanding of human trafficking and what they see as the ‘best’ ways to fight it. She focuses more on practices in migration management.\textsuperscript{64} She sees the need for a more all-inclusive approach and cooperative actions between agencies to increase best practices to combat `trafficking in persons and its inner complexities.\textsuperscript{65} What she does not address is how best the countries in the continent cooperate with organizations and the role these organizations play to help prevent trafficking nationally.
Anne T. Gallagher, a leading authority on the international legal and policy aspects of human trafficking, acknowledges that trafficking has developed to become a fundamental problem for the international community despite its long and dishonourable history. In her book, *The International Law of Human Trafficking*, she registers the laws that have risen on the matter. These international laws have been connected to the main norms in transnational criminal law, refugee law, and international criminal law, while attempting to identify and explain the primary obligations of states with regards to the prevention of human trafficking, protection, and support of victims and prosecution of perpetrators. She assess the responsibility of the state in combatting human trafficking, linking international law and rules on State responsibility, by stating key norms of international human rights law, refugee law, transnational criminal law, and international criminal law, and in the process, identifies and explains the key legal obligations of states with respect to preventing trafficking, prosecuting perpetrators, protecting and supporting victims. She cautions that the sharing of liability for violations of international law is vital to that system's effectiveness and credibility. With specific reference to human trafficking, international law demands that states, and in some cases, other actors, be held accountable for their acts and omissions that cause or in other respects, contribute to trafficking.

The above scholarly works contribute significantly to the topic under study by revealing some global, sub-regional and national efforts channelled at addressing the menace of human trafficking. However, very little literature exists on the analysis of the topic in relation to the role and impact of international organisations, and how they cooperate bilaterally with national government in preventing the menace of human trafficking in West Africa, with particular reference to the role
of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in preventing human trafficking in Ghana. This gap is what this study sought to fill.

1.9 Sources of Data and Methodology

1.9.1 Sources of Data

Slideshare identifies that research can be conducted with different methods, but every research is based on the data which are analysed and further clarified to get information. There are two main methods of data collection. These are primary and secondary data collection. The primary data use the survey, experiments, interviews and direct observation whilst the secondary data may be obtained from many sources including newspaper, books, magazines, and journals.

1.9.1.1 Primary Data

According to Chan and Ahmed, primary data are pieces of information gathered and collected for the research purpose. Primary data are conducted from the first-hand sources which have not been published yet and the data are more reliable, accurate and objective. There are methods used to collect primary data including interviews, observation and questionnaire. In this study, semi-structured interviews were used to collect primary data from officials of institutions who provided relevant data to the topic under study. The interviewees, four in all were Mrs. Emelia Allan, Mrs. Abena Annobea Asare, Mr. Alex Billing and Mrs. Doris Mawufemo Yiboe. They were selected based on their expertise in the subject matter. Specifically, Mrs. Allan is a Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF, Ghana, Mrs Asare is the Deputy Director of the Human Trafficking Secretariat at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Mr. Billing is the Counter Trafficking Project Manager of IOM-Ghana, and Mrs. Yiboe is the Counter Trafficking
Assistant at IOM-GHANA. The aim was to collect relevant pieces of information that address the issue of human trafficking and the role the IOM had played to help prevent human trafficking in West Africa and specifically in Ghana.

1.9.1.2 Secondary Data

The secondary data refer to the existing data that obtained from other researchers and has been published previously. Normally, the secondary data are simpler and easier to collect as it can be obtained in various ways such as through journals, books and the internet. The disadvantage is secondary data obtained may not be accurate. This study used secondary sources from official documents, published works, journal articles, unpublished works, policy papers and reports such as Ghana’s Human Trafficking Act 2005, IOM Ghana Annual Reports on trafficking in persons and IOM Ghana Strategic Plan and Annual reports, as well as reports from UNODC and ILO.

1.9.2 Methodology

The analysis of the data was purely qualitative. The study utilized an exploratory and descriptive research designs. Exploratory qualitative research method was employed in the study due to its flexibility. This method involves exploring other avenues of obtaining data without any strict restrictions and applications as in the case of quantitative research method. Exploratory design “most often relies on secondary research such as reviewing available literature or data and also conducting in-depth interviews, case studies and pilot studies.” This design helps in formulating a more precise problem statement and in developing a good hypothesis. The descriptive design helps in making holistic investigations and analysis of data obtained from the sources indicated earlier without any prejudices or personal sentimentality. The descriptive or narrative design was
used to establish facts and relationships by describing in detail, the cooperative role played by the IOM in preventing human trafficking in Ghana.

Data obtained from the interviews were used to provide a more holistic and in-depth analysis on the topic. However, only head officials in-charge of human trafficking with in-depth knowledge on the nature, extent and the role being played and the level of cooperation among stakeholders to help prevent human trafficking were interviewed due to the sensitivity of the issue and difficulty in identifying human trafficking cases.

Data from the sources indicated were analysed through the theoretical framework of cooperation to provide a better insight on the topic. This was then used to make recommendations based on the outcome of the study. The study utilized an exploratory and descriptive design for the data analysis. These methods helped in providing extra information where limited information existed and also helped in identifying gaps in existing literature.

1.10 Organization of Study

This research is structured into four chapters.

Chapter One comprises the Introduction and the Research Design.

Chapter Two provides an Overview of Interventions in the Human Trafficking Phenomenon across the Globe, Africa, West Africa and Ghana.

Chapter Three provides an Analysis of IOM’s specific role in preventing human trafficking in Ghana.
Chapter Four, which is the final chapter, contains the Summary of Research Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations.
ENDNOTES

3 Ibid.
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16 Ibid., p. 93
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24 Ibid. p2
28 Ibid p.467 and 468.
29 Ibid. p.468.
36 Aronowitz, A. op. cit., p.1
37 Bigo, D., & Anastassia T. op. cit.,
38 Aronowitz, A. op. cit., p.16-18
39 Ibid
40 Ibid., 160-162.
42 Aronowitz, A. op. cit., p.8
43 Shelley, L. op. cit.,105
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50 Ibid
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52 Ibid
53 Gallagher, A. op. cit., p.483
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56 Ibid
57 Ibid.
59 Shelley, L. op. cit.,
60 Ibid. p.226
62 Ibid
63 Ibid
65 Ibid
66 Gallagher, A. op. cit., p.87-92
67 Ibid
68 Ibid
71 Ibid
74 Ibid.
CHAPTER TWO

OVERVIEW OF INTERVENTIONS IN THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING PHENOMENON ACROSS THE GLOBE, AFRICA, WEST AFRICA AND GHANA

2.0 Introduction

The phenomenon of Human trafficking is a human security threat which is not restricted to only Ghana. It is in view of this that this Chapter provides an overview of interventions in the human trafficking phenomenon across the globe, with particular emphasis on Africa, West Africa and Ghana.

2.1 Overview of Interventions in Global Human Trafficking Phenomenon

Though human trafficking is a major transnational threat which necessitates collective global efforts in tackling it, it is very difficult obtaining accurate statistics on its victims.1 Nevertheless, it is generally agreed by the international community that what constitutes trafficking in persons must include the action; recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring and receipt of persons, the means; coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, threat or use of force, abuse of power or vulnerability; and the result or goal; for exploitation, which includes the exploiting the prostitution of others, other types of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or common trends, and the removal of organs.2 Globally, most human trafficking cases remain unknown. The international community backed by research, report that the numbers of detected victims represent ‘the tip of the iceberg’, implying that large numbers of trafficked victims go unnoticed, due to definitional mix-up, hidden population of trafficked victims and challenges in methodology used in gathering data.3 The most recent global report put together by ILO, IOM and Walk free
foundation enumerates estimates of identified victims of modern day slavery. In the context of the report modern day slavery is explained as covering ‘a set of specific legal concepts including forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, slavery and slavery-like practices, and human trafficking.’ The report further clarifies that modern slavery is not defined in law, but it is used as an ‘umbrella term that focuses attention on commonalities across these legal concepts’; importantly referring to situations of exploitation due to violence, threats, deception, coercion, and/or abuse of power, all of which are present in the definition of human trafficking. The estimates of the report suggested that in 2016, 40.3 million people were victims of modern day slavery, with 10 million victims being children (persons under the age of 18) and women and girls representing 71% of the victims. The above statistics suggest that children, women and girls are at great risk to threats of global human trafficking and must therefore be given greater attention in terms of dealing with the global threat.

Notably, it is a fact that human trafficking is a global transnational threat, and a continent, region or countries, can either be an origin, or transit, and destination for trafficked victims. Victims trafficked from sub-Saharan Africa and East Asia are sent to a wide range of destinations and between 2012 and 2014 a total of 69 countries reported to have detected victims from Sub-Saharan Africa. Africa is not the only region of origin, also East Asia and countries in the Caribbean and the Americas also constitute regions of origin, transit and destination of victims of human trafficking. Consequently, extra or more interventions or efforts by global, regional and national bodies need to be channelled to addressing the phenomenon of human trafficking.
Though Human trafficking dates far back to antiquity, its discussion in international discourse became prominent when feminists including Josephine Butler raised concerns about involuntary prostitution under the term ‘White Slave Trade.’ The term connotes the abduction and transport of white women for prostitution and as such attracted greater international concern which engendered a vigorous campaign, media coverage and establishment of anti-white slave trade organizations, as well as encouraged international and national legislations to incorporate measures to combat the menace.

The enormity of threats posed due to the phenomenon of human trafficking across the globe, including sexual abuses, exploitations and sometimes deaths, suggest that no single country can effectively address the canker alone by relying on its resources and security personnel. Therefore, there was the need for collaborative efforts through international cooperation among states to effectively respond to the ensuing global threat. Based on the ideas of International Cooperation, initial global efforts or attempts to address human trafficking took their roots from the International Agreement adopted in France in 1904. This was known as The International Agreement for the Suppression of the White Slave Trade, which was later revised in 1910. This agreement created global impact by helping to address the fraudulent or abusive recruitment of women for prostitution in another country and trafficking of women and girls within national borders. This means initial global efforts for addressing human trafficking concentrated only on women and girls. However, in 1921, a meeting under the auspices of the League of Nations led to the revision of both the 1904 and 1910 Agreements, to include the trafficking of boys and men into the International Agreement for the Suppression of the White Slave Trade. The global impact of the 1921 Agreement was that it created awareness that trafficking in persons was not only limited to women and girls. Therefore,
this was to encourage states to also give greater attention to men and boys when addressing the immoral practice of trafficking in persons. Following this, *The Convention of Slavery, Servitude, Forced Labour and Similar Institutions and Practices* was also adopted by the League of Nations in 1926 to help address the global menace of human trafficking. This Convention was aimed at preventing and suppressing slave trade, as well as taking measures towards complete abolition of slavery in all forms in a progressive manner.

Similarly, the League of Nations in 1933 adopted *The International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women of Full Age* in Geneva. This condemned all forms of recruitment of women into prostitution in another country. The 1933 convention was adopted due to the recommendation made to the League of Nations by the Traffic in Women and Children Committee on the Work of its Twelfth Session to revisit measures towards suppressing trafficking of women across the globe. As a result, greater emphasis was placed predominantly on women and the end result of trafficking not to include just prostitution, but to include all sexual and immoral purposes. Towards this end, punishable requirements to attempted offences of trafficking in women were stipulated in the 1933 agreement.

After the formation of the United Nations, a renewed interest in human trafficking issues resurfaced in the international arena. This was due to the increasing phenomenon of global feminist movements, as well as globalization, which induced international migration and, in some cases, trafficking of persons. The UN, in 1949, introduced a *Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Other* stipulated that “Prostitution and the accompanying evil of the traffic in persons for the purpose of prostitution are incompatible with
the dignity and worth of a human person and endanger the welfare of the individual, the family, and the community of a person."\textsuperscript{16} This was to encourage state parties across the globe to implement laws to prohibit and punish unlawful prostitution, unless given permission by the state to engage in such activity. The menace of innocent women and girls being taken abroad and forced against their will into conditions of exploitation (typically sexual) was continually raised intermittently throughout the second half of the twentieth century.\textsuperscript{17} In the early 1990s, the issue of trafficking in women and girls grew, exposing other issues linked to the phenomenon of human trafficking that needed to be addressed to help tackle it effectively both nationally and internationally. It was important to note that, the victims included men and boys which had to be incorporated in the conventions. Trafficking in persons was no longer restricted to whites and developed countries, but non-white and victims from rather poorer countries. At the international level, discussions focused on human rights system and feminists and feminist organizations, mainly those working for the abolition of prostitution.\textsuperscript{18} Also, the \textit{International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (1966)} and the \textit{Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)} were part of UN Conventions designed to address global human trafficking. The International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (1966), for instance, stimulated a global campaign towards promoting physical integrity, as well as respect for individual liberties and security of persons, which helped to a large extent in the global fight against trafficking of persons since such an act violated the respect for a victim’s liberties and the security of persons trafficked. The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) also engendered global Women’s Human Rights Movements to ensure that women were not seen as weak or vulnerable and subjected to any form of inhumane acts including trafficking for illegal sex or forced labour just because of their sex or gender.
From the 1990s onwards, human trafficking became more pronounced and prevalent on the global scene and as such became topical in international programmes. Increase in globalization, the advent of HIV/AIDS and fear about transmission of the disease through migration (mainly prostitute migration), migration oriented towards labour among others, also played a key role in rekindling interest in the subject.\textsuperscript{19} Consequently, the subject of human trafficking became a major issue on the international front including the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993, and the World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.\textsuperscript{20} The 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna led to the promulgation of the need and urgency of states to promote and protect the fundamental human rights of persons including preventing the phenomenon of human trafficking across the globe. The World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, focused on global campaigns to ensure women empowerment including preventing and protecting women from torture, discrimination and slavery in the form of trafficking for illicit sex or forced labour. The conference sparked awareness globally for all women, reminding them of their strengths and capabilities and that they were not weak or vulnerable.\textsuperscript{21}

Subsequent to the above, the UN General Assembly, at the beginning of the Millennium, adopted United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Organized Crime Convention). The Organized Crime Convention was supplemented by three additional treaties (Protocols) including the \textit{UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children} to help address the increasing global phenomena of human trafficking.\textsuperscript{22} The objective of the trafficking Protocol was to establish international standards in the fight against trafficking in persons. Having established international standards would generate similarities in national criminal responses to trafficking and support international cooperation in
investigating and prosecuting human trafficking cases. Also, as stated in Article 2 of the Trafficking Protocol, are the aims to assist and protect trafficked persons with full respect for their human rights.\textsuperscript{23} The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC) as at 1 October 2012 had 172 State parties while the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children had 153 state parties.\textsuperscript{24} Hence, the state parties were all obligated to adhere to the provisions stipulated in the convention by making sure that they gave their quota in ensuring that the aims and objectives were achieved.

Following this convention, several relevant international conventions and protocols were established to help in the global fight against human trafficking. Among these were the \textit{Convention of the Right of the Child on the Sale of Children} which entered into force Sept.2, 1990, \textit{Child Prostitution and Child Pornography} which entered into force Jan. 18, 2002 and the \textit{International Labour Organization Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour} entered into force Nov. 19,2000. Similarly, several organizations and agencies were established through international cooperation to help in global campaigns and solutions to human trafficking. These include the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP). These agencies usually liaise with national governments to implement programmes and policies towards effectively addressing the menace created by human trafficking. The variations in frameworks and instruments are due to the changing patterns and dynamics, as well as consequences of global trafficking in persons, which necessitates different focus or approach to help deal with the menace effectively.
Subsequently, there have been considerable efforts made to combat the human trafficking phenomenon globally. Worth noting is the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) which was initiated out of renewed commitment by world leaders in the fight against human trafficking.\textsuperscript{25} UN.GIFT was officially launched in March 2007 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and made possible by a substantial grant from the United Arab Emirates and other financial support from the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships and public donations, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) United Nations Children’s Fund(UNICEF), and the Governments of Canada, Austria, Australia, Belgium, and Switzerland.\textsuperscript{26} UN. GIFT is a call to action, reminding Governments, civil society actors, the business community, the media, and concerned individuals that combating the menace cannot be fought, or won, unaided and of their mutual commitments to fight human trafficking. The UNODC, acknowledging that there is the need to join forces, increase the scope and number of stakeholders, pool knowledge, and cooperate across borders in efforts to eradicate human trafficking, continues to develop UN.GIFT in partnership with the International Organization for Migration, International Labour Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children’s Fund and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.\textsuperscript{27} Ultimately, there have been significant cooperation at the national, regional and international levels among local community activists, researchers, media, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), governmental actors and international institutions, to help clamp down on the global threat of human trafficking. International Organizations such as the IOM, UNODC and ILO have liaised with governments and regional bodies to formulate and implement policies for preventing trafficking, protecting victims and prosecuting those engaged in such acts. The media, through coverage and news broadcast and educational institutions through
research have also helped to expose the enormity of human security threats posed by human trafficking to put governments and international organizations such as the UN on their toes to take effective and urgent measures towards addressing the global crisis.

Currently, the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, a resolution adopted by the member states of the United Nations aimed at addressing global human trafficking, focuses essentially on the 4Ps. These are Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership. Prevention involves measures to ensure that the phenomenon of human trafficking is curtailed or ultimately eliminated across the globe. This has led to efforts by governments and international organisations to improve economic development through job creation, rectifying laws and implementing policies towards ensuring that human trafficking becomes a thing of the past. Protection involves provision of welfare services to human trafficking victims when identified. Towards this end, governments, international organizations, and the business community have taken initiatives and provided shelter for trafficked victims, raised awareness, created jobs and done other things. As evident in efforts such as the UN. GIFT works with companies and countries worldwide to help prevent trafficking in persons. Some of such projects include the implementation of awareness raising campaigns with South African Airways, Qatar Airways, Hilton Hotel Vienna and Euro lines. The Hilton Hotel has accepted to distribute educational leaflets on human trafficking translated into 6 languages (English, French, German, Russian, Arabic and Italian) for its patrons and other travellers. The Hilton hotel also have agreed to sensitise their employees regularly about human trafficking, to assist in awareness creation and identifying possible victims. Also Microsoft Africa & Middle East funded the UN.GIFT e-learning tool for the private sector and supports the distribution of the tool. Moreover, Second Chance
Employment Service (an employment agency) in 2011 partnered with UN. GIFT to provide placement services, training and employment assistance for victims of human trafficking and domestic violence, thus providing victims with financial and physical freedom. The agency does this for women of all nationalities and in several languages and contributes to the e-learning tool on human trafficking for the private sector. Prosecution sometimes involves punishing culprits who engage in human trafficking activities to serve as deterrent to others. This has led to national, regional and international legislations, prohibiting human trafficking, and defining it as a crime against humanity and a punishable offense. The first 3Ps can only materialize when there is effective Partnership through cooperation among nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), governmental actors, international organizations and all other stakeholders in helping to effectively address the global threat of human trafficking. Generally, the 4Ps International framework for fighting human trafficking had led to investigation of trafficking cases; prosecution and conviction of traffickers; provision of assistance, protection and care for adult and child victims and prevention of trafficking across the globe basically through international cooperation. This partnership has been much evident in recent times among states and international organizations such as the IOM, however the phenomenon of human trafficking continues to persist across the globe.

In light of this, this study is committed to analysing the cooperative partnership between the IOM and the Government of Ghana in preventing human trafficking in Ghana.
2.2 Overview of Interventions to the Human Trafficking Phenomenon in Africa

Africa is a continent of migration in which people move from one area to another willingly or to escape civil war, armed conflict, natural disaster, or starvation.\textsuperscript{32} Trafficking in persons is most prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa and quite difficult to control. This is because though many of the countries have policies in place, they lack the needed capacity to effectively implement the policies towards responding to the phenomenon of human trafficking on the continent. One of the major causes of human trafficking in Africa is the absence of diverse ways of earning a living, and the lack of economic stability in many African countries.\textsuperscript{33} These situations therefore push or force individuals, particularly the youth to move in search of better prospects for livelihood and sustainability. In Africa, persons trafficked are usually children. With the hopes of changing family economic situations, at times children are given away to recruitment agents sometimes for money or with the hope of returning as better people who will come and transform the family’s economic prospects.\textsuperscript{34}

Adepoju identifies three main types of trafficking in Africa as trafficking in children mainly for farm labour and domestic work within and across countries.\textsuperscript{35} He mentions Ghana, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, Mauritania, and Togo as countries that supply children for labour, in the region for domestic work in Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Côte d’Ivoire, Congo, and Nigeria.\textsuperscript{36} Togolese girls are being trafficked into domestic and labour markets in Gabon, Benin, Nigeria, and Niger, and boys exploited for agricultural labour, trafficking in women and young persons for sexual exploitation outside the region and also women brought in from other regions for sexual exploitation.\textsuperscript{37} It can therefore be inferred that the underlining factor that helps human trafficking to flourish in Africa is Poverty which leaves all victims; children, women and men vulnerable.
Another dominant issue that causes Human Trafficking is the Tradition of Migration. People in Central and Western Africa have traditionally migrated for economic reasons, either from one country to another, or within their home countries, to work or to search for cultivable land.\textsuperscript{38} Traditional tendencies of migration from rural areas to urban areas are seen predominantly in the dry season in most African countries. For better understanding of the phenomenon of human trafficking in Africa, the overview is compartmentalized into the various sub-regions in Africa. Central Africa is usually associated with West Africa, South Africa and Europe in terms of origin or destination for child trafficking channels or networks.\textsuperscript{39} Predominantly, cases of child trafficking in Central Africa are reported from Cameroon to South Africa and Switzerland, whilst DRC records higher rates of internal trafficking cases within Central Africa, also serves as an origin for child trafficking to South Africa.\textsuperscript{40}

The flows of trafficking persons from East Africa are predominantly inter and intra-regional but also directed increasingly towards the Gulf States and Europe.\textsuperscript{41} Unlike Central Africa where majority of persons trafficked are children, in East Africa, majority of the persons trafficked are rather women. Most women from Ethiopia are trafficked through Tanzania and Kenya in order to swerve Ethiopian recruitment regulations protecting the rights of persons being trafficked.\textsuperscript{42} Consequently, the women who are trafficked end up being abused in Lebanon as domestic workers. Also, women and girls from South Asia and India are believed to have been trafficked to Kenya.\textsuperscript{43} This shows that East Africa does not only serve as a source of origin but also as a destination for victims of human trafficking.
In Southern Africa, trafficking in persons is usually intra-regional and takes place from and to almost all the countries in the region.\textsuperscript{44} Just like Central Africa, trafficking in this part of Africa usually involves children with South Africa being the main destination for trafficking in the region.\textsuperscript{45} However, trafficking from Eastern Europe, China, and Thailand find route to South Africa.\textsuperscript{46} Findings from a study conducted in 2008 revealed that there a high awareness level (i.e. 71\%) among citizens of internal trafficking situation in South Africa.\textsuperscript{47} This is mainly because male refugees in South Africa usually traffic women to the country for sexual exploitation. They do this as means for applying for refugee status in return.\textsuperscript{48}

With reference to the West-African sub region, trafficking of persons is usually predominant in children and happens both internally and among the states in the region.\textsuperscript{49} Nigeria records high number of human trafficking cases in terms of both origin and destination in the sub-region.\textsuperscript{50} However, some children from Nigeria are also trafficked to Turkey, Iraq and Tajikistan.\textsuperscript{51} Aside Nigeria, Ghana, and Senegal also record a high number of trafficking victims in the region.\textsuperscript{52} In Ghana for instance, though trafficking involves children, boys are often trafficked internally for exploitation in the fishing industry.

However, as international recognition of trafficking increases, especially in cases related to women and children, international treaties have played a key role in combating trafficking in Africa. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime [the Palermo Protocol] entered into force on 25 December 2003, has provided a definition and useful guideline for law reform in Africa.\textsuperscript{53} Most countries in Africa have ratified the 1989 UN
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The Protocol to the CRC elaborates on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography and also provides a wide definition of ‘sale of children’ that covers many constituents of child trafficking.\textsuperscript{54} Also, in the framework of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, the Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development adopted the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children, in Tripoli in 2006.\textsuperscript{55} This led to adoption and implementation of policies by most governments in Africa to ensure that trafficking of person was effectively tackled, as a way of addressing developmental challenges on the continent.

In accordance with the Law Enforcement Framework to limit Human Trafficking, it should be noted that general law enforcement is on the low. The absence of trafficking-related legislation and failure to criminalize all or most aspects included in the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol in some countries in Africa makes the prosecution of traffickers impossible and provides no protection for the victims of trafficking.\textsuperscript{56} The low level of knowledge on the issues and legislation, the limited resources for law enforcers and poor information sharing among the countries are a few of many factors that hamper anti-trafficking interventions. Some countries have had to deal with the challenge and have considered the ratification of some related international conventions. But the process is very slow.\textsuperscript{57} Also, corruption in enforcing laws or judicial systems has obstructed law enforcement since it creates lack of trust and confidence in the judicial system and hence could deter victims from exposing the act. The existence and fear of stigmatization is also a major factor that hinders the exposure to Trafficking, which makes the victims susceptible to re-trafficking. However, some regional blocs in the sub region have taken initiative that would help combat the menace.
The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has made noteworthy improvements to criminalise trafficking in persons. In southern Africa, human trafficking is noted as a criminal activity and has become a public security concern, as it is globally. As state parties to international legislative frameworks such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, SADC countries have made efforts to combat trafficking and are committed to domesticate through legislation development. As of April 2017, thirteen (13) of the fifteen (15) SADC member countries have stand-alone legislation on trafficking in persons. Namibia and the Democratic Republic of Congo are the lingering countries that are yet to ratify trafficking in persons-specific legislation.

Additionally, the recovery process of victims of trafficking is a major framework to reduce the phenomenon. There should be specific support given to those who claim to have been trafficked, including a place of safety, and support to allow them to start a new life in a new place. Protocols and cooperation should be developed between governments to ensure the protection of those who have been trafficked, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Janice Fong also talks about the fact that prevention of trafficking in children is still not tackled vastly in Africa. Raising awareness operations is the very common approach used in combating trafficking. This is because the approach focuses on children, the youth, parents, government officials and opinion leaders. However, awareness creation on the negative consequences of human trafficking in Africa has been on the low, contributing significantly to the prevalence of the canker on the continent.
The dangers of migration are mostly tackled with these activities leaving out that of trafficking in persons hence, trafficking in children is still a challenge on the continent. The public is less informed about criminal organised groups and how they lure their victims. Trafficked persons suffer exploitative labour and domestic labour and sexual exploitation, inside and outside countries of the region.

2.3 Overview of Interventions in Human Trafficking Phenomenon in West Africa

Though human trafficking is prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa, it is most prevalent in West Africa. There are several factors that account for Human Trafficking in West Africa, and Ghana, to be precise. Some of these relevant factors include Poverty, Tradition of Migration, Demand for Sexual Exploitation and Child Labour. According to Janice Fong in her literature review on trafficking in persons in East and West Africa, poverty is usually recognized as a motive for migration, or the reason for persons being trafficked. The situation in rural areas is mainly serious, as persons trafficked are usually children, thereby leaving most rural areas with the aged which most often inhibits growth and development in such areas since the productive labour force to engineer development flee to nearby towns and cities. As already noted in the previous section, Nigeria is the country with the highest recorded cases of trafficked persons, followed by Ghana and Senegal. To effectively address the severity of the menace created by human trafficking in West Africa, states and some international organizations have cooperated both regionally and internationally to help implement international Conventions and Protocols geared towards addressing the human security threat in the sub-region.
In relation to the above, member states of ECOWAS under the prevention part of the framework of UNODC, executed the project “Assistance for the Implementation of the ECOWAS Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons.” Therefore, in 2001, ECOWAS introduced the Declaration and Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children as an initiative to announce their commitment to the eradication of trafficking in persons. ECCAS and ECOWAS adopted a joint bi-regional Cooperation Agreement and Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The plan of action reiterates the ECOWAS initial plan of action and extends efforts to combat trafficking into the Central African region. The joint bi-regional agreement emphasizes that State parties should ensure the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments. The agreement also called on Member States to set up direct communication between their border control agencies, and in this regard ECCAS is in the process of setting up joint antitrafficking offices at borders with the task of identifying trafficked persons. The UNODC also supported the project by publishing a training manual for ECOWAS countries to use as reference material and in training activities on issues of human trafficking. This project helped to strengthen the capacity of the member states through training to implement the ECOWAS Plan of Action towards preventing Human Trafficking in the region. Also, the UNODC frequently organise training sessions for border guards, police, prosecutors, judges, and NGO staff in many countries including Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Ghana.

Additionally, with reference to combating human trafficking in the West-African sub-region, a Declaration and a Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2002-2003) was adopted by member countries. This plan created greater awareness for countries of origin of trafficking cases.
to take urgent and effective measures towards addressing the menace. However, the plan also encouraged countries of transit not to perceive trafficking as a non-national issue but they should also take effective steps to eradicating the human security threat from the sub-region. Countries of destination tend to show more indifference towards the problems. Nevertheless, the growing attention of the media in the region and the work of some international NGOs have pushed the governments to react more responsibly to the problems. ECOWAS and a Group of Partners – the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) – with generous funding from the European Union (EU) European Development Fund (EDF) - launched a five-year project seeking to maximise the development potential of free movement of persons and migration in West Africa by supporting the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Free Movement of Persons Protocols and the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration. The project started on the 1st of June 2013 and ended in 2018. The focus of the intervention was free movement in the context of the ECOWAS protocols and migration policy harmonisation at both the regional and national levels. At regional level, the project enhanced the planning, coordination and monitoring capacities of the ECOWAS Commission to lead intra-regional dialogue and act as a platform for development and harmonisation.

In a quest to intensify counter trafficking activities, IOM has regional offices worldwide. In West Africa, IOM has established a regional office in Senegal to cover 14 countries in the region and have country offices in these (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Republic of Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone). IOM-Nigeria for instance, signed a memorandum with the National Policy on Protection and Assistance
to Trafficked Persons (NAPTIP) to cooperate and build up capacity in these areas: a. Technical assistance to the NAPTIP to strength their existing logistic and technical service; b. Port of Entry Assistance services such as Return/Repatriation, Sheltering, Victim Counselling, and Rehabilitation/Re-integration c. Public Awareness, Education and Training.”

In addition to the above, the IOM’s international framework in fighting human trafficking which follows the 4Ps (Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership) plays a significant role in tackling the menace in the sub-region. The organization’s existence in the West African sub-region involves projects focused mostly on raising awareness, on providing technical support and assistance to national governments and NGO partners to address human trafficking. In Nigeria, the IOM country office collaborates with state and other international organisations to help prevent trafficking in persons and revictimization of trafficked persons. IOM-Nigeria’s direct assistance programme included return assistance; family tracing, airport reception, sheltering/temporary accommodation; in country transportation to final destination; access to counselling services, medical and legal services; access to educational reinsertion, vocational training and income generating activities; and follow-up and monitoring.” The direct assistance programme is done in collaboration with Nigerian state agencies and stakeholders in the quest to counter human trafficking.

In West Africa, Nigeria was the first country to adopt a national legislation in line with the trafficking protocol to address trafficking in persons in 2003. Ghana, Liberia, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and the Gambia passed laws that counter labour and sexual exploitation. Benin,
Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Mali and Togo implemented legislation to address child trafficking.

A study of Child Trafficking in West Africa by UNICEF observed that prevention strategies must not be limited to raising awareness only but focus on development as well.⁷⁶ Sadly, the lack of organized poverty eradication plans, and the lack of progressive effort within prevention activities usually undermined the effectiveness of prevention strategies of human trafficking in the West African sub-region.

2.4 Overview of Interventions in Human Trafficking Phenomenon in Ghana

In Ghana, the phenomenon of human trafficking prevails usually because poor parents force their children (who are usually youths or give them to well off relatives) to move from the rural areas to urban ones in search of better conditions of livelihood like good social amenities, high remunerations, respected professions and general wellbeing.⁷⁷ This results in a situation where children and women are usually subjected to forced prostitution or forced labour. Ghana’s situation is not quite different from other countries in the sub-region as children are subjected to forced labour within fishing communities, begging, street hawking, domestic servitude, agriculture and pottering. Some of these children are also subjected to sexual exploitation on commercial basis in the country. Some parents in Ghana resort to child trafficking as a livelihood strategy in attempt to cope with the harsh economic conditions in the country. Consequently, some parents cooperate with trafficking offenders, rather than reporting them to legitimate authorities to be sanctioned.
The nature and pattern of human trafficking as evident in Ghana usually involves more children than adults. Consequently, girls from Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Cote d’Ivoire are more likely to be subjected to forced prostitution upon their arrival in Ghana.

Although efforts have been made by the Government of Ghana to address the crisis, it does not fully comply with the minimum standards for elimination of trafficking due to limited resources. Ghana is therefore ranked or considered a Tier Two country for making progress to comply but not fully complying with the minimum standards for elimination of trafficking yet. Some of the efforts made so far to address the prevalence of human trafficking in Ghana include enforcement of laws to prosecute and convict traffickers. Typical example is the conviction of child labour traffickers in the Lake Volta Fishing industry. The Ghana Police Service has also partnered with Interpol through training to facilitate ways of preventing human security among Anglophone African countries. Also, a distinguishing initiative by the Government of Ghana (GoG) is the enactment of the Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694), which provides a legal framework for combatting human trafficking by seeking to prevent and suppress trafficking, punish persons complicit and initiate interventions to promote the protection and welfare of victims.

With regards to prosecution, Ghana since 2005 prohibits all forms of trafficking in persons. The Human Trafficking Act prescribes a minimum of five (5) years for all persons who engage in any form of trafficking of persons in the country. Subsequently, on March, 11 2008 an Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Ghana Police Service (GPS) was established. The Unit since then has been successful in conducting investigations into allegations of human trafficking cases and seeks to prosecute offenders. As part
of their functions, the AHTU ‘Liaise with other stakeholders to adopt proactive methods to prevent trafficking in human beings (domestic and international)’ through cooperation with other law enforcement agencies worldwide. They also investigate, arrest and prosecute offenders under the Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694). For instance, the AHTU between 2009 and 2011 was successful in investigating 31 trafficking cases, prosecuting 15 of such cases which led to the imprisonment of those guilty. Some of the famous cases include seven (7) Chinese Nationals arrested, charged and convicted for trafficking fourteen (14) Chinese victims for sexual exploitation. The trafficked victims were later sent to China and reunited with their families. Also, Princess Thomas Dupe a Nigerian Trader was charged in 2009 and sentenced eight years in prison for trafficking a fourteen (14) year old girl from Togo to Ghana among others. Subsequent to the AHTU was the establishment of the Human Trafficking Secretariat (HTS). The general goal of the Secretariat is to ease prevention and combating of human trafficking cases in Ghana. It also has to sensitise the public, to cut overall instances of trafficking, and to create a favourable environment for the acceleration of national development by eradicating trafficking in persons, which serves to hinder development gains.

With regards to prevention of human trafficking in Ghana, the Government of Ghana demonstrated renewed efforts in this regard. It conducted anti-trafficking education campaigns and workshops to prevent trafficking in the country. Through partnership with international organizations and other states, counter-trafficking officials spoke regularly with anti-trafficking messages on radio talk shows and on television. The Ghana Immigration Service also maintains a task force responsible for patrolling the borders and ports to expose crimes related to human trafficking. More recently, in June 2015, the Government of Ghana and the Government of the United States
of America signed the Child Protection Compact (CPC). This is a 4-year Partnership or Joint Initiative Agreement aimed at addressing child trafficking in Ghana. This achieved some results by helping to strengthen the government’s capacity to identify child trafficking cases. In addition, it has helped the government to care for and reintegrate victims. It has also helped in effectively investigating and prosecuting traffickers and also prevent trafficking from occurring. The government had also developed a draft for a national plan of action for tackling human trafficking in the country. This was done in November 2016, with the assistance of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to develop a coordinated and comprehensive National Plan of Action to effectively tackle human trafficking in Ghana. This plan started in 2017 and is expected to end in 2021. This is because it is believed that trafficking of persons in the country cannot be eradicated overnight. It will take some time, and as such will require an action plan towards a progressive move to achieve that goal of completely eradicating the menace in the country.

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly demolished Soldier Bar, a brothel in Accra known to have employed children in prostitution. This was an attempt to minimize or curtail the rate at which children are trafficked for illicit sex trade in the area. Notwithstanding all these efforts, there is a dearth of scholarly exploration in terms of the cooperative role between the Government and international organizations such as the IOM. Towards this end, the next chapter is devoted to analysis of the role of the IOM in cooperation with the Government and state institutions in preventing human trafficking in Ghana.
ENDNOTES

2Ibid., pp. 57 & 60
5Ibid. p.16-17 & 22-23
6Ibid
10Ibid.
12Ibid., p.181
17Gallagher, A. op. cit., p.16
20Ibid.
21Ibid.
25United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking. Available at http://www.ungift.org/about/
26Ibid.
27Ibid.
30Ibid.
31Ibid. available at http://www.ungift.org/business/partners

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34Ibid.
36Ibid.
37Ibid.
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41Ibid.
43Ibid.
45Ibid.
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49Ibid.
54Ibid.
57Ibid.
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60Ibid.
63Ibid.
66Ibid.
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70Fong, J., op. cit.,
72Ibid.
74 Ibid.
77 Okech117.
80 Ibid
83 Ibid.
87 Ibid.
88 Ibid.
CHAPTER THREE

ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) IN PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN GHANA

3.0 Introduction

Trafficking in persons has grave repercussions not only on the national security of a country where the illicit practice is perpetuated, but more especially, also the human security of the citizenry. Consequently, some international organizations such as the IOM have made significant efforts through international cooperation with states to prevent the phenomenon of human trafficking from occurring and subsequently escalating to become a threat to international peace and security. Towards this end, the chapter presents the analysis of the role of the IOM in preventing human trafficking in Ghana, taking into considerations, the background of the IOM, general purposes and functions of the IOM in addressing human trafficking across the globe, some interventions by the IOM tailored towards preventing Human Trafficking in Ghana, some governmental agencies IOM partners with in carrying out its activities, as well as challenges and successes of the IOM in the realization of its objective of preventing human trafficking in Ghana.

3.1 Background of the IOM

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was established in 1951 following the upheaval and displacement of citizens of Western Europe after World War II.1 As a result, the original name for the IOM was the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME) and was mandated to assist governments of European countries in the resettlement of displaced citizens by the War. Subsequently, the name of the
organization was changed in 1952 to the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM), to the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM) in 1980 and finally to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 1989. The reason for the change of name of the organization was as a result of its transition from an European logistics agency (i.e. provision of transport to displaced Europeans after the Second World War to being an organisation with a global perspective in addressing migration issues (i.e. addresses challenges of international migration, particularly in Europe).

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. In September 2016, IOM became a related organization of the United Nations. Currently, the IOM promotes international cooperation and assists the search for pragmatic solutions to migration challenges through working closely with governments, inter-governmental and civil society organizations. The constitution of IOM establishes the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development as well as the right of freedom of movement of people. As of December 2016, IOM had a membership of 166 countries.

The activities of IOM are elaborate, all geared towards the attainment of humane and orderly movement of people. These include awareness creation, partnership building, direct assistance and protection to mobile population in different conditions, research, data collection and analysis, capacity development and training, advice and support on migration policies and international migration law, and creating environments for fora so as to promote dialogue, good practices and cooperation. IOM collaborates with its partners in the international community on four broad areas aimed at migration management: migration and development, facilitating migration,
regulating migration and forced migration. The IOM in the 21st Century has also extended its scope to addressing global human trafficking phenomenon.\textsuperscript{8} This is because trafficking is closely related to migration and smuggling as it involves the movement of people from one area to another. In 2007, the IOM joined with the Global Initiative on Fighting Human Trafficking to become part of the management team of the UN.GIFT.\textsuperscript{9} IOM’s international framework in fighting trafficking follows the three Ps (Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution) with partnership recently added. The presence of IOM on the African continent entails numerous projects dedicated mainly on raising awareness of the public of human trafficking, on providing technical support to national governments and NGO partners to address human trafficking, and on providing assistance to trafficked persons, law enforcement, target victims, and service providers who work at protecting victims of trafficking.\textsuperscript{10}

3.2 General Purposes and Functions of the IOM in Addressing Human Trafficking across the globe

3.2.1 Protection

The ultimate goal for the establishment of the IOM was to ensure the protection and relocation of displaced persons following the end of the Second World War and to also assist in migrant crises anytime the need arises across the globe. To this end, the IOM makes arrangements for the organized transfer of migrants, for whom existing facilities are inadequate or who would not otherwise be able to move without special assistance, to countries offering opportunities for orderly migration.\textsuperscript{11} In this regard, the IOM ensures the transfer of displaced persons, particularly refugees to states willing to receive them. They do not only transport such displaced persons to safer territories but also ensure that their welfare and social conditions are catered for to an appreciable level. In more recent times, this function and purpose of the IOM is extended to victims
of human trafficking. Such victims are provided shelter due to the collaborative efforts between the IOM and governments of states in which such victims are found. In addition, some of them especially the children are granted education opportunities whilst the older victims are provided with some technical and vocational training to reintegrate them into society. This helps to provide some form of protection for victims and helps to prevent revictimization by empowering through sensitization and capacity building programmes.

3.2.2 Prosecution

The IOM liaises with governments and regional bodies across the globe to legislate laws and action plans which make trafficking of persons illegal and a crime, hence punishable by law. In terms of prosecution, the IOM only plays an advisory role to see to it that governments and regional bodies criminalize the act of trafficking in persons and punishing culprits who engage in the act. Therefore, the IOM encourages governments and regional bodies through advisory services to undertake serious legal and judicial reform, law enforcement training, and victim restitution. Typical among these laws and Conventions include *The International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women of Full Age, the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the United Nations Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air*. These conventions have helped state parties to it to adopt national legislations in line with the trafficking protocol and to ensure that culprits of trafficking in persons across the globe are held accountable and punished to serve as deterrent to others.
3.2.3 Prevention

In terms of prevention of human trafficking from occurring, the IOM, in cooperation with stakeholders of a state or region where trafficking in persons is pronounced, engages in awareness creation and public education to conscientize people about the national security as well as human security threats posed by the alarming occurrences of human trafficking and the need to curtail such a global security threat. In achieving their aim to help prevent human trafficking, the IOM uses the media for sensitization and to enhance quick distribution of information on human trafficking. To accomplish this, IOM then works with local media, like the community drama, artworks and social communicative methods, to provide information on measures that will help to address the factors that encourage human trafficking in a particular area.\textsuperscript{13} These activities by IOM helps engender global media coverages, public debates, and scholarly publications and presentations on the subject of global human trafficking as a threat to international peace and security and also contributes to global campaign, actions, frameworks and Conventions in addressing human trafficking situations globally. As a result, the IOM through its advisory role helps governments and regional bodies review the policies, programmes and activities geared towards addressing global migration challenges,\textsuperscript{14} with special attention to the global human security phenomenon.

3.2.4 Partnership

Since IOM is the UN’s migration agency, its activities cannot thrive without proper international cooperation with all stakeholders including states, regional organizations, media, scholars, policy makers, think-tanks, civil society organizations, local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), as well as citizens. Consequently, the IOM provides fora for States, as well as international
agencies and other organizations for the exchange of views and experiences, and the promotion of cooperation and coordination of efforts on international migration issues, including studies on such issues in order to develop practical solutions. The IOM is currently committed to international cooperation with states and other stakeholders aimed at addressing global human trafficking issues.

3.3 Strategic Interventions by IOM towards Counter Trafficking in Ghana

In order to contribute to the Government of Ghana’s efforts in preventing human trafficking in Ghana, IOM-Ghana has cooperated in the areas of the 4Ps in tackling global human trafficking. With regards to Prevention, the IOM has collaborated with the Government to develop a strategic plan towards preventing human trafficking in the country. This plan provided strategic interventions which aimed at preventing human trafficking and smuggling in Ghana. The plan focused on migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration and forced migration. Each focus area was marked by key strategic objectives designed to benefit IOM’s target groups. The essence of formulating a strategic plan in Ghana was of crucial significance to the IOM, as it enabled the organization to know which action plans to prioritize in line with government policies and priorities and to be able to improve the service delivery in the country. In addition, the strategic plan for IOM helped the organization to carry out its activities in line with the mission statement and vision of the organization. More so, the plan helped in the monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the IOM in the country against the strategic objectives of the plan.

In terms of Prosecution, the IOM has cooperated with the government to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement, judicial authorities to combat human trafficking in Ghana. The IOM on
April, 2018, launched a Standard Operating Procedures to Combat Human Security in Ghana, with special attention on Child Trafficking. The Strategy included identification of cases and bringing to the Government’s notice the prevalent areas of the threat (including the Volta Region and Cape Coast) for culprits to be tracked and sanctioned. In this regard, the contribution of IOM by developing the SOP has enhanced the Government of Ghana’s capacity to fight against trafficking in persons and smuggling. This is because the SOP facilitated the operations of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Ghana Police Service (GPS) and the Immigration Service to identify and punish culprits who engaged in trafficking of persons within the country and across borders.

In relation to Protection, the IOM has cooperated with the Government of Ghana and other relevant stakeholders including the Ghana Police Service, the Ghana Armed Forces, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and other international organizations such as UNICEF to provide assistance to victims of trafficking, especially women and children trafficked for labour and commercial sexual exploitation. The IOM cooperated with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) in providing comprehensive direct assistance to victims of Traffic in Persons, especially children. Typical example and success of this role by the IOM was evident in the rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration of trafficked children in communities along the Volta Lake of Ghana, since the IOM considered this area as the most predominant area for trafficking of persons, especially children, who are induced into sexual trade and forced labour, particularly fishing.

Also, regarding Partnership, the IOM in Ghana has cooperated with the Government, UNICEF and other local NGOs in drafting plans, strategies, policies and legal frameworks toward
preventing human trafficking in the country. Success in this regard has been evident in the drafting of the 2015 Strategic Plan for tackling Human Trafficking in Ghana, as well the 2018 Standard Operating Procedures to Combat Human Security in the country. These plans and strategies have contributed in ensuring some level of monitoring and evaluation of human trafficking cases in the country by gathering efforts toward addressing human trafficking in the country.

3.4 Activities by IOM to Help Prevent Human Trafficking Activities in Ghana

No individual country can effectively tackle or address human trafficking by relying on its available resources including personnel and security intelligence. This is due to the nature of human trafficking, which makes it difficult to identify cases and also sanction culprits. This therefore justifies and calls for effective cooperation between international organizations such as the IOM and governments of states to effectively address the global menace. Paramount among the activities carried out by the IOM to prevent the phenomenon of human trafficking in Ghana were awareness creation, lobbying for effective legislation against human trafficking, assisting in promoting economic development, capacity building and development of a tool kit.

3.4.1 Awareness Creation through Education, Sensitization and Advocacy

The phenomenon of human trafficking in Ghana cannot be effectively prevented if the citizens are ignorant of the National Security and Human security implications for a country and its citizens. As a result, one of the main ways by which the IOM has helped to preventing the trafficking of persons in the country is by collaborating with the GoG and relevant stakeholders including state institutions, NGOs, CSOs and other international organizations to engage the citizens on the
subject matter so as to conscientize them through public education, open fora and campaigns to refrain from such illicit act.

As explained in a personal interview with Mrs. Doris Mawufemo Yiboe (Counter Trafficking Assistant at IOM-GHANA):

The IOM cannot effectively create awareness of the drastic situation of human trafficking in Ghana and the need to urgently tackle it if the organization lacks credible or vital information about the reality of trafficking in persons in the country. To this end, the IOM cooperates with the Government of Ghana and other state institutions, as well as NGOs and international organizations to conduct field data researches on the changing patterns and dynamics, as well as the National security and Human security implications of trafficking in persons in the country. Findings from such research are then published on the organization’s website or codified into small pamphlets and then disseminated to the general public. In other instances, the IOM also engages in public campaigns, open fora and radio and television discussion to make know the severity of the threats posed by human trafficking in Ghana and the need to take urgent measures in preventing or eliminating it. 21

Findings from the research helped the organization to obtain data or statistics, as well as the negative impact of human trafficking in the country to know how best to sensitize the citizens to refrain from the act. In 2002, the IOM carried out the Yeji Trafficked Children’s Project in Ghana on child trafficking for labor exploitation in the fishing communities.22 Its aim was to raise awareness on the issues of child trafficking for labor exploitation for government agencies, international organizations and NGOs to take measures to address the menace. The outcome of the
Project revealed that the phenomenon of child trafficking was rife in the Keta Krachi and Yeji fishing communities who were either being trafficked or induced into forced labour. The Project, by extension led to the rescue of 684 children who had been trafficked to work with fishermen along the Volta lake in Ghana. Without credible research, the activities of the IOM in Ghana to prevent trafficking in persons would only be based on rhetoric, speculations or propaganda making waves in the media rather than the reality. This will make it difficult to achieve the ultimate goal of preventing the trafficking of persons in the country.

Consequent to the above, Mrs. Doris Mawufemo Yiboe revealed that IOM-Ghana publishes findings of its research on issues of human trafficking dimensions in Ghana on the organization’s website and international journals to make such information accessible to the citizens. This is done to create awareness on the extent, nature and impact of trafficking of persons in Ghana to inform the citizens and government about the urgent need to address the situation. Mrs. Doris Mawufemo Yiboe also revealed that:

*IOM-Ghana has a physical library of publications on human trafficking dimensions at the global, sub-regional and national levels to inform the citizens of Ghana about the dire National and Human security threats posed by human trafficking across the globe and the measures taken to address it. However, only about one percent of Ghana’s population, particularly students, lecturers and researchers are aware of the existence of the library and make use of it.* This is mostly because most people do not know where the IOM office in Accra is to utilize the facilities. Others who know the place either do not visit there frequently or are not aware about the existence of such facility at the office.
The above situation has left some section of the population still ignorant about the works and efforts of IOM toward the prevention of human trafficking in the country and thereby continue to engage in the act or are not willing to report cases that would help officials muster information that would assist them come up with effective preventive response mechanism and collaborative or cooperative effort among the IOM, the government and other state institutions that would help address human trafficking in the country.

In a personal interview with an official of IOM-GHANA, he asserted that:

*Aside publications, the other means or measures adopted by the IOM by cooperating with the government, international organizations, NGOs, state institutions and other relevant stakeholders to create awareness on the phenomenon of human trafficking in Ghana to garner a preventive response mechanism include print and electronic media campaigns, anti-trafficking education-campaigns and workshops and personal encounters or engagements with the citizens through medium such as open forums.*  
*This allows for personal interactions and feedbacks from citizens who are engaged on the subject matter.*

All the above efforts by the IOM in cooperation with the government, international organizations and state institutions have made some positive strides since an appreciable section of the population (particularly literates) have gained fair knowledge about the subject matter and the security threats that human trafficking poses both to the country and the citizens. The IOM, in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and the Department of Social Welfare, sensitized 120 sending and receiving fishing communities on the dangers of using children in fishing and the human trafficking Act.  
*Paramount among these communities include*
Yeji, Keta-Krachi in the Volta Region and Gomoa-East, Cape Coast, Elmina, Ekumfi, Effutu and Mfantseman in the Central Region of Ghana. The sensitization led to some reduction in child labour exploited for fishing activities, but did not totally eliminate child trafficking for fishing activities in such areas.

An official at IOM also revealed that:

*The IOM roles in preventing human trafficking and managing trafficked persons entail implementing international values and concepts of UN.GIFT. It does this, by educating and sensitizing the Ghanaian public on the ills of human trafficking. In view of this, there was a pilot project done in 2016 in the Volta Region with support from the French Embassy where IOM developed a booklet which was more of a cartoon booklet because it was realized that most of the people at the community level as much as they do understand when you talk to them, in terms of reading these documents was a challenge. So, a pictorial booklet was developed in a cartoon form that explained the process of what trafficking is, the law, some of the stages involved, what the culprits do and how they negotiate? The booklet was later translated into the Ewe language and distributed in Yeji and Kete-Krachi considered as two predominant communities where children were induced into forced labour for fishing activities. Distribution of the booklet raised the awareness for some inhabitants of the two communities to became aware of the trafficking laws of the country. Prior to this, most of the inhabitants were ignorant of the trafficking laws of the country and did not even know Trafficking in Persons was a crime. The English version was replicated in the Central Region in collaboration with the Gender Ministry.*
The impact of the role of the IOM in awareness creation due to its cooperation or collaboration with the government and other relevant stakeholders including state institutions, NGOS, Civil society groups and other international organizations had led to changing attitudes through education, sensitization and advocacy as revealed by Doris Mawufemo Yiboe. This has changed the misconception or perception people usually had about human trafficking as a livelihood strategy and are now aware and enlightened about the dangers associated with human trafficking. However, there is still a section of the population who are ignorant of human trafficking in Ghana or the dangers it poses to the citizens and the country, to even consider helping to prevent it.

3.4.2 Lobbying for Effective Legislation against Human Trafficking in Ghana

Doris Yiboe revealed in a personal interview that IOM pursued a political agenda through engagements with the Government and some caucus of the Ghanaian Parliament to enact and legislate laws which will criminalize trafficking in persons in the country. This subsequently led to the support and passing of Human Trafficking Act in 2005. This made trafficking in persons illegal and therefore punishable by law, hence serve as a way of preventing human trafficking from festering across the country. The IOM achieved this objective by convincing representatives in the Ghanaian Parliament to support bills that would help address human trafficking in Ghana. The IOM did this through visitations, advice, emails, letters and even telephone calls to some close or influential representatives of the Ghanaian Parliament it had contact with.

The lobbying by the IOM through its cooperation with the Government of Ghana and some representatives of the Ghanaian Parliament had impact on policy direction as it influenced their debates and votes on issues pertaining to human trafficking in Ghana. This was evident in the
support and passing of the Human Trafficking Act in 2005. Ghana’s Human Trafficking Act was passed on December 5, 2005. The main objective of the Bill was to address human trafficking activities within, to, from, and through Ghana. The Act’s composition was mainly guided by the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), which is the primary international legal framework to combat trafficking. The Act comprises three necessary components including (1) prevention of human trafficking; (2) protection of trafficked persons; and (3) prosecution of traffickers. Typical scenarios of punishment as measures to curtail Human Trafficking in Ghana include:

“The conviction of three Chinese nationals of trafficking eight Chinese women to Ghana in June, 2009 for exploitation in prostitution. The Accra Circuit Court sentenced the primary trafficking offender to 17 years' imprisonment, including 10 years for human trafficking and two years for conspiracy. His brother received a 12-year sentence – 10 years for abetment and two years for conspiracy. In a second case, an offender received a jail sentence of eight years' imprisonment for trafficking three Ghanaian children to Côte d'Ivoire. These sentences were well above the mandatory five years minimum. In January 2010, the Agona Swedru Circuit Court convicted a Ghanaian woman for enslaving two boys, ages; six and eight, from the Central Region to fish on the Lake Volta. The woman was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment – the first ever prosecution of a domestic trafficking offender in Ghana. The government joined with neighbouring countries, as well as international organizations and foreign embassies, to prosecute transnational cases, most recently in a successful bid to break up a trafficking and prostitution ring that sent at least 50 Ghanaian women to Russia for the sex trade.”
In relation to the above, the 2005 Human Trafficking Act which criminalized trafficking of persons in Ghana has helped to a larger extent in preventing or discouraging some people from engaging in the act of human trafficking in the country, since they know it is illegal to practice such act in the country and therefore punishable by law (precisely the 2005 Human Trafficking Act). Without such Act, many people would have engaged in trafficking in persons with impunity, and the National and Human security consequences would have been worse than what is evident in the country today. Subsequently, in 2007, the government of Ghana established a Human Trafficking Board, and the Human Trafficking Fund was created to show a commitment by the Government in preventing Human trafficking in Ghana. In achieving this, IOM played a credible role by providing support through training and advising on technical issues in dealing with migration.

3.4.3 Assisting in Economic Development in Ghana

As already identified in previous Chapters of this study, poverty is a predominant cause of human trafficking in West Africa, and for that matter Ghana. Consequently, the IOM partnered with international organizations and states to encourage social and economic developments through migration. Therefore, the IOM had been committed to poverty alleviation and empowerment of citizens (particularly, the rural and coastal dwellers in Ghana), so as to prevent parents from trafficking their children as a livelihood strategy for survival.

The lack of infrastructural development and economic prospects in some parts including the Central, Volta, Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions has been one of the factors for the increase in human trafficking in Ghana. There exist limited policies on agriculture and other economic activities by the Ghanaian government to support the North of the country where
agricultural activities are profound. These situations led to marked deprivation and poverty in the northern sections of Ghana. This has also made the youth very susceptible to rural-urban migration. There is the need to speed up deliberate government interventions such as Savannah Accelerated Development Agency (SADA) to bridge the development gap between the North and the South.

In a personal interview with Mrs. Abena Annobea Asare (Deputy Director of Human Trafficking Secretariat – Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection), she explained that:

*The IOM had cooperated with the Government and other relevant stakeholder institutions in Ghana in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the objectives of the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA) (Ghana’s current medium-term development framework). Currently, the IOM continues to support the Government of Ghana to effectively manage migration as a tool for the sustainable development of Ghana.*

One of the main ways which the IOM has helped to promote economic development as a way of preventing human trafficking in Ghana was through the cooperation between the IOM and the Government to develop a strategic plan in 2011 which aimed at addressing the challenges of human trafficking in Ghana. This plan provided strategic economic and social development interventions which aimed at preventing human trafficking and smuggling in Ghana. This included provision of education, as well as technical and vocational training to citizens, particularly in the coastal areas of Volta and Central Regions of Ghana where the IOM considers the trafficking in persons, especially children to be prevalent. This was done to enable children and adults in those regions to acquire knowledge and skills. These skills and knowledge were geared toward enabling
them become employable or empowered economically through a vocation or occupation to

discourage some poor parents form trafficking their children as a means of livelihood strategy.

3.4.4 Assisting in Capacity Building towards preventing Human Trafficking in Ghana

The IOM was also involved in creating the necessary national and local institutions in
collaboration with the government of Ghana; and training and creating capacity for civil society
organizations and security agencies involved in the fight against human trafficking.

An official of IOM-Ghana revealed in a personal interview that:

*The IOM organized special seminars, conferences and training workshops for volunteers who are committed to championing the agenda of preventing human trafficking in Ghana. These training and workshops were mostly concentrated, particularly in the coastal areas of Volta and Central Regions of Ghana where the IOM considers the trafficking in persons, especially children to be prevalent.*

From 2008 to mid-2010, about 10 series of training of trainers’ workshops were organized by IOM. The purpose of the above training and workshops was to equip 50 volunteers with knowledge and skills to be able to articulating and presenting in the local languages or dialects which were widely spoken and understood by the people, to be able to effectively communicate the mission and vision of the IOM in its attempts to prevent the trafficking in persons in Ghana. This went a long way to promote the awareness creation role of the IOM as a way of preventing human trafficking in Ghana. In addition, it helped build the capacity of law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and the judiciary to combat human trafficking in Ghana. This is because they became aware of most
hotspots where human trafficking was prevalent in the country to devise strategies of subjecting culprits to the laws of the country.\(^{46}\)

In addition to the above, Mrs. Abena Annobea Asare revealed through a personal interview that: *The IOM, as a way of building capacity in Ghana towards the prevention of trafficking in persons, cooperated with the civil society, think tanks (such as Imani-Ghana) and other international organizations (including World Vision and UNICEF), the media and educational institutions. This cooperation involves sharing of expertise ideas, teaming up together to organize campaigns, workshop and educational seminars on the topic of human trafficking in Ghana to create awareness to the general public about the menace and the need to take urgent measures toward addressing it now.*\(^{47}\)

The impact of the above engagements and cooperation between the IOM and relevant stakeholders was to continue to put pressure on the Government, Representatives of the Legislature, the State Security Apparatuses and policy makers to make them more committed towards the cause of preventing the increasing phenomenon of human trafficking in the country. This is because the task of preventing human trafficking in Ghana is a very big one and cannot be single-handedly done by the activities or efforts of the IOM. Networking, collaboration and coordination between the IOM and the major stakeholders have led to effective public confrontations and debates with officials of the various Arms of Government towards taking and adopting effective measures to prevent the increasing human trafficking cases in Ghana. The cooperation between the IOM and the major stakeholders identified above provided strong support base for mobilization and
advocacy on the issue, which reflected in the initiation and support for legislations of human trafficking priorities.

The prevention of human trafficking is an expensive business and it will require huge funding to be resourceful in all aspects including intelligence, security personnel among others. This had a bigger drain on the national coffers which already is in crisis to address most of the development challenges. Therefore, the IOM provides some financial support to the government to promote economic development as well as beef up the security apparatuses as pragmatic measures of preventing human trafficking in Ghana. Mrs. Abena Annobea Asare in a personal interview asserted that “the IOM in its cooperation with government occasionally made financial commitments usually not in physical cash but in providing shelter and relief assistances to victims of human trafficking.” However, since the IOM is the UN agency for migration whose funding is dependent on donor support from states, it is also mostly faced with the challenge of financial constraints and thereby become crippled in providing regular and constant financial base support to the Government of Ghana to adopt effective measures towards human trafficking in Ghana.

3.4.5 The Development of the Child Protection Toolkit by IOM

In 2013, IOM-Ghana in partnership with UNICEF designed a tool Kit known as the “FREE TO BE ME” Tool kit. An official of IOM-Ghana revealed that:

The ‘FREE TO BE ME’ Tool kit was developed through stakeholder consultations with officials of both the IOM and UNICEF. Following these consultations, a roundtable discussion was organized in order to ascertain input from a wide range of government stakeholders on migration priorities for Ghana and the potential role that IOM and UNICEF could play in meeting these
priorities. At the end of the process, a strategic planning workshop was held involving staffs from both IOM-Ghana and UNICEF-Ghana to analyze the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) pertaining to IOM’s current operations and the migration situation in Ghana and the sub-region. These steps enabled IOM and UNICEF to come up with the strategic objectives and priorities of the ‘FREE TO ME’ Tool Kit to help address and prevent human trafficking in Ghana, especially among children.49

It was designed to augment the local and national trafficking prevention efforts through a community-driven approach to child protection.50 The tool kit is aimed at empowering community members to assume ownership of their communities by changing social practices that are harmful to children, through initiating effective and accessible human and child rights deliberations within the community level.51 Operations were carried out through local languages of the communities concerned. The “Tree of Life” is a powerful public declaration made by the community as a vital element within the programme to reject and prevent child trafficking so as to uphold the protection of the child.52

In 2015, through the continuous support from UNICEF, the Community Child Rights Education was intensified to increase child protection as well as combat child trafficking. The project collaborated with district Social Welfare and Community Development staff with focus on eight (8) districts of the Volta Region made up of forty (40) communities to train community leaders on the “FREE TO BE ME” community education toolkit.53 Various partners involved in the project included the Department of Social Welfare, the Department of Community Development, district officials, community chiefs, school personnel, women’s groups and parents/caregivers and
The entire community was encouraged to take part in the project to enhance collective responsibility. There was positive response from the entire community since operations were done in local dialects which the people aligned with or were conversant with.

The “FREE TO BE ME” community education toolkit considers a myriad of topics within the community ranging from a good start to life and the importance of children’s play, responsible and advanced parenting, children’s rights, child trafficking, and birth registration. Special topics were also designed specifically to be delivered to children during special sessions to sensitize them regarding child trafficking. Volunteers of the project were taken through training of trainers’ workshop. The volunteers received materials and accessories to aid the rollout when they returned to their respective communities for the project. The materials and accessories included tee-shirts for both children and adults, and the Child Protection toolkit manual. The inscriptions on the shirts of the adults read: “I AM AN ADVANCED PARENT, MY CHILDREN COME FIRST!” and ‘MY COMMUNITY SAYS NO TO CHILD-TRAFFICKING’. Children on the other hands, have this written on their shirts: “I BELONG IN THE CLASSROOM AND NOT ON A BOAT” and “CHILD PROTECTION STARTS WITH ME”.

In 2016, great awareness was created due to the ‘FREE TO BE ME’ Tool kit project among about over 5,000 community members in the trafficking prone communities in the Volta Region, since that was the predominant area were the project was focused. In addition, 127 community volunteers were trained on the prevention and protection of child trafficking. In order to enhance awareness creation on the preventive strategies of child trafficking, community members in the Volta and Central Regions of Ghana received 2,000 copies of an illustrated booklet on the National
Human Trafficking Law, which included how to identify and report cases, the legal rights of the victims and the consequences for the culprits. A total of 193 Government officials were trained in identification, screening, investigation and prosecution in 2016. The impact of the ‘FREE TO BE ME’ Tool Kit in the region was that it led to greater awareness creation of the drastic effect of human trafficking and human smuggling. This necessitated the urgent need for the IOM and UNICEF in cooperation with the Government to adopt measures to prevent, curtail and address its menace created by the prevalent rate of human trafficking in the region. The ‘FREE TO BE ME’ Tool Kit also led to the empowerment of the youths in the communities with high prevalence of human trafficking cases, who acquired some technical and vocational skills in computing, carpentry, hairdressing, sewing of dresses among others. Others also had the opportunity to be enrolled in higher education or to further their education. This helped to prevent and minimize the extent to which parents trafficked their children for sexual exploitation or forced labour due to poverty.

3.5 Some Agencies IOM collaborates with to Help Prevent Human Trafficking in Ghana

IOM Ghana has over the years partnered civil society, Non-Governmental Organizations, governments and civil society in carrying out its mandate. In Ghana, the following bodies have been vital in the quest of IOM to help prevent human trafficking. Discussed below are some of the partnering agencies in Ghana.

3.5.1 Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP)

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) is mandated to improve and promote the protection of the child’s right, vulnerable groups, as well as promote gender equality.
The MoGCSP collaborates with other law enforcement agencies to help prevent human trafficking especially with particular focus on children. The MoGCSP is also expected to provide the institutional, social and political conditions for addressing migration issues that relate to vulnerability and gender.\textsuperscript{68} MoGCSP is also mandated to conduct monitoring and evaluation, data collection, and research relating to human trafficking.

Mrs. Abena Annobea Asare (Deputy Director at Human Trafficking Secretariat, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection) stated:

\textit{As you know, Ghana is a source, Ghana is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. The internal exploitation of people, especially, children, within the country is more predominant. This has been a burden not only to the country but the international community at large. The Ministry has collaborated with IOM and other partners in helping curb human trafficking. The Ministry uses the 4Ps approach thus Prevention, Prosecution, Protection and Partnership. The Ministry also undertakes advocacy, awareness creation, sensitization and trainings. IOM supports with Technical Expertise and sometimes sponsors the whole training.}

\textit{Internally in Ghana, there is more child trafficking than adult trafficking. Depending on the sector and the reason for the trafficking, gender disparity could be noticed. For instance, if it is for the fishing sector, more boys are being trafficked to engage in fishing activities but if it is for head porters ‘Kayayee,’ more girls are trafficked for such purpose and with street hawking, both genders are trafficked to engaging in selling along the major streets in cities and towns. However, the common trends are children trafficked to work on the Volta lake and cocoa farms (within and outside Ghana).}\textsuperscript{69}
To address the above situation of child trafficking in Ghana, the law (i.e. The Human Trafficking Act of Ghana) gives the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection the power to do everything human trafficking and the government abides strictly by the 4Ps approach in addressing the phenomenon of human trafficking in the country. With regards to prevention, the Ministry does everything from advocacy, to awareness raising, to sensitization, training and anything that falls under prevention.

So, the Gender Ministry does, is doing and will do anything that will help prevent human trafficking in Ghana. The MoGCSP therefore cooperated with the IOM to help prevent human trafficking in Ghana. The IOM assisted the Gender Ministry in terms of training and capacity building of personnel who are committed to the fight against human security in the country. This is because, the IOM has the technical expertise. Hence, the IOM provided expertise to train personnel from the MoGCPS on countertrafficking measures. And also, if the IOM needed any assistance from the Ministry, the MoGCSP was always ready to send someone to assist. That is a form of collaboration and cooperation between IOM and the MoGCPS. It is the last P in counter trafficking, partnership. But in all that the MoGCPS does and even with prevention, the Gender Ministry needs partnership with the IOM to help achieve it. Since they have more insight on migration related issues, the IOM serves as resource persons and give technical assistance. Sometimes they sponsored the whole training and the MoGCSP also does same when the need arose.

Prevention is like the advocacy the Gender Ministry does. In collaboration with IOM, the Gender Ministry did training programmes to inform the people about human trafficking, enacted laws and
educated the people about what human trafficking is. This helps the people to know and make informed decisions concerning the issue. Mrs. Abena Annobea Asare explained that:

_The Ministry tries to ensure that most of the push factors which induce human trafficking are contained and urgent measures are taken by the Government in cooperation with the Ministry to ensure there is political stability, good governance, avoidance of single gender discrimination and all other possible causes. So, in helping to prevent human trafficking in Ghana, the Ministry with other stakeholders e.g. IOM collaborate to help contain and eliminate the push factors which induces human trafficking such as poverty and insecurity. This is because when the people find themselves in situations where they have no jobs, they would want to go and look for economic support and greener pastures. Human trafficker therefore take advantage of such situations to induced people, especially into forced labour._

Prevention is so wide and covers a lot of effort including cooperation, collaboration, working alongside and together, among others. Depending on the trend, either IOM or the Ministry suggested what should be done. For instance, on the issue of traffickers taking Ghanaian girls to the Gulf States, both the IOM and the Ministry can or suggest if a programme should be done to help educate and prevent its progress. But, during other times when the government could not support such programmes or felt a programme or project would not be in the interest of the people or if such a programme or project may had affected national security, the suggestion was rejected or disapproved. But most of the time, IOM suggested and the Ministry collaborated or the Ministry suggested and IOM helped, all in the interest of the country to help prevent human trafficking.
The prevention works the Gender Ministry did in collaboration with the IOM were such that if certain key measures were not put in place such controlling and coordinating the works of all NGOs, especially, in the area of migrants to ensure that standards were enforced in protecting the vulnerable, victims stood a chance of being, trafficked or re-trafficked. In relation to this, the “Free to Be Me” Tool Kit Project which is the major prevention work of the IOM, as well as, the Compact Agreement Project signed between the IOM and the US Embassy were all supervised by the Gender Ministry.76

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection has the legal mandate according to the Human Trafficking Act to coordinate all issues of trafficking, so the IOM could not work without informing the Ministry about what it was doing or what they intended to do, or its movements. With regard to a rescue mission or the provision of shelter for trafficked victims, the officials of IOM must of necessity work with the officials from the Gender Ministry to achieve their goal. The IOM was expected to report to the Gender Ministry on every move it made with regards to human trafficking, including programmes for preventing the phenomenon of trafficking in persons from happening or recurring in the country.

3.5.2 Ghana Immigration Service (GIS)

The Ghana Immigration Service is responsible for immigration control and facilitating the movement of people through the borders of the country under the Immigration Service Act, 1989 (PNDC Law226) and the Immigration Act, 2000 (Act, 573).77 GIS employs effective border management processes to combat human trafficking in the child trafficking prone regions in Ghana including the Volta, Northern and Central Regions of Ghana.78 In addition, the GIS patrols the
borders of Ghana to prevent the trafficking of children and irregular migration. The Migration Information Bureau (MIB) has also merged three new sections of the agency for effective output. These include the Refugee Desk which works closely with the Ghana Refugee Board and the Migration Information Bureau (MIB), which partners with IOM, NGOs, the European Union and Civil Society Organizations to campaign against human trafficking and illegal migration. This has contributed largely in minimizing the rate of persons trafficked from Ghana across borders.79

3.5.3 Anti Human Trafficking Unit of the Ghana Police Service

The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Ghana Police Service (AHTU) was established on 11th March, 2008, under the command of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).80 “The Unit is to collaborate with other stakeholders to embark on a more vigorous awareness, sensitization programmes and other strategic measures to address the issue of human trafficking in Ghana and across borders.”81 Some of the key stakeholders of the Unit include Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs (MOWAC), Department of Social Welfare (DSW), Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), UNICEF, International Labour Organization (ILO) International Organization for Migration (IOM), Attorney General’s Office, and other NGOs.82 The Unit is charged with the following functions:

“
To liaise with other stakeholders to adopt proactive methods to prevent trafficking in human beings (domestic and international), Co-operate with Law Enforcement Agencies worldwide, in operations to crack down on international/domestic criminal gangs involved in human trafficking, Investigate, arrest and prosecute offenders under the Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694), Liaise with National Headquarters Operations, Regional Operational Units, Rapid Deployment Forces, Domestic Violence and Victims Support Units (DOVVSU) and INTERPOL/GHANA, to
offer prompt response to human trafficking cases and Liaise with Regional, Divisional, District, and Unit Crime Officers to collect and collate information on Human Trafficking cases to feed the National Crime Statistic Database. "83

The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the CID of the Ghana Police Service also helped in cooperation with the IOM to identify internal trafficking cases, rescued victims and sanctioned culprits involved in the illicit act of human trafficking. This went a long way to prevent others from engaging in the illicit trafficking in persons, although few cases still persisted in some portions of the country including the Volta and Central Regions of the country, where the human trafficking is much prevalent.

3.5.4 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

On 11th of December 1946, UNICEF was created by the United Nations General Assembly with the mandate to provide emergency food and healthcare to children in countries which were devastated by World War II. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is a United Nations Fund that provides developmental assistance and humanitarian support to children and mothers mostly in developing countries.

UNICEF Ghana has been involved in activities in Ghana since 1982, targeting the poorest parts of the country and the most marginalized members of the population, focusing on interventions with a high and immediate impact on children’s health, education and protection. One of UNICEF’s key strengths is that it works from multiple angles, advocating at the highest levels of policy making within government while also working on the ground to demonstrate the impact of
interventions that can be scaled-up. UNICEF has the technical capacity to develop quality, cost-effective, and focused models that it can test as pilots before lobbying and supporting the government to expand them throughout the country.\textsuperscript{84} UNICEF works hand in hand with Government, development partners and civil society in Ghana to ensure that the country’s economic growth benefits all its children.\textsuperscript{85}

In a personal interview with Mrs. Emelia Allan (Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF, Ghana), she explained that:

\textit{When IOM started its operations in Ghana, it experienced difficulties engaging the Government and other relevant stakeholder institutions in the country. Therefore, UNICEF-Ghana served as the mediator between the IOM-Ghana and the Government of Ghana and other stakeholder institutions and agencies in the country.}\textsuperscript{86}

Subsequently, with regards to preventing the phenomenon of human trafficking in Ghana, UNICEF partnered with the IOM to roll out the “FREE TO BE ME” Tool kit successfully in some communities in the Volta Region such as Yeji and Kete-Krachi. The ‘FREE TO ME’ Tool Kit also led to the empowerment of the youths in the regions who acquired some technical and vocational skills in computing, carpentry, hairdressing, sewing of dresses among others, whilst others also got the opportunity to be enrolled in or further their education.\textsuperscript{87} This helped to prevent and minimize the extent to which parents were willing to give out their children for sexual exploitations or forced labour due to poverty.\textsuperscript{88}
Mrs. Emelia Allan asserted that regarding UNICEF’s general contributing with IOM to develop the “FREE TO BE ME” toolkit, it is emotionally better to prevent a child from being trafficked than wait for them to be trafficked before rescuing them. Even if the child was rescued as a victim of human trafficking, the child remains psychologically unstable with the scars of trafficking. So, based on that UNICEF helped IOM to develop a proposal for the toolkit that helped prevent human trafficking. UNICEF as a right based organization respects people, their intelligence and their capability to think for themselves and believes in engaging people in dialogue that helps them to realize their wrongs and change them. She revealed that:

*At the end of the first phase, UNICEF realized from a field survey conducted that the toolkit was a very good project. This was because many of the communities had well received the messages and their awareness on human trafficking had increased. Attitudes and practices were beginning to change, so UNICEF went ahead and funded the second phase of the project.*

*In the second phase, they expanded the number of districts and communities from the initial six communities and 3 districts to 40 communities in 8 districts out of the 25 districts in the Volta Region. The selection of the districts was done based on areas most prone. This was done within resources but they change the approach a bit to make it more sustainable. UNICEF also suggested that the second phase was implemented toward the existing government system rather than community volunteers. So, then the Social welfare and Community social workers will go to the communities and train the Volunteers after they had been trained by IOM.*

At the time IOM approached UNICEF for assistance to develop the toolkit, UNICEF was also developing a bigger campaign, with bigger resource material, all to prevent trafficking in persons but it was slow. The reason for the slow pace was because the response from Ghana government
was slow. IOM went ahead to develop the “FREE TO BE ME” toolkit with assurance from the GoG and funding from UNICEF to take the toolkit to the selected or targeted communities and implement it. It started with Training Volunteers and Community Volunteers in both receiving and sending communities in the Volta region where most people send their children to other places.\(^9\)

### 3.6 Challenges of IOM in Helping Prevent Human Trafficking in Ghana

In a quest to help prevent human trafficking in Ghana, IOM has encountered a number of challenges highlighted below.

#### 3.6.1 Poverty and Economic Hardship

Mrs. Abena Annobea Asare pointed out that:

*Poverty is the main contributing factor which induces parents, especially in Ghana, to willingly give out their children to traffickers to receive some negotiated amount of money as a livelihood strategy to cope with the harsh economic conditions they face. Unfortunately, most of these children are subjected to sexual exploitation or forced labour.*\(^9\)

Ghana has a significantly young population. Unfortunately, most of these youths are either unemployed or under-employed. The unemployment situation coupled with high poverty levels in some regions including Northern, Upper East and Upper West, Central and Volta Regions make most of the youth in these regions susceptible to the lures of human trafficking as an escape route to go and find greener pastures elsewhere. Unfortunately, some of these young people who are trafficked rather become victims of sexual exploitation or forced labour. Therefore, notwithstanding the preventive role played by the IOM in cooperation with the Government and
other relevant stakeholders including state institutions, Think Tanks, NGOs, and other international organizations, to completely and effectively prevent or eradicate the phenomenon of human trafficking in Ghana, severe poverty and economic hardship continues to be a developmental challenge which bedevil such efforts. This is because though trafficking in persons is illegal in Ghana, most people are still willing to take the risk to relieve themselves from the harsh economic conditions they find themselves. This jeopardized the efforts of the IOM in achieving total success in the eradication of human trafficking in Ghana.

3.6.2 Porous nature of Borders and Harbours in Ghana

Mrs. Emelia Allan (Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF, Ghana) asserted that, one of the major factors encouraging trafficking of children outside the country is the porous nature of our borders and harbours, adding: “Ghana has greater challenges in terms of border and harbour controls. As a result, it becomes easier for people to engage in illicit trafficking of persons to and fro the country.” The porous nature of our borders and harbours in the country allow trafficking in persons across the borders with impunity. This is because, there is lack of equipment to ensure effective surveillance and checks at such harbours and borders, coupled with high rate of corruption, which incite human traffickers to use such avenues for their activities.” This made it very difficult and almost impossible for the IOM to be successful in its preventive role of the phenomenon of human trafficking in Ghana.

3.6.3 Corruption

In relation to the above, Mrs. Abena Annobea Asare also asserted that, the very moral fibre of the Ghanaian society, with particular reference to the government institutions, is collapsing. This is
because, personnel working for government institutions and state apparatuses such as the Anti-
Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Ghana Police Service and the Ghana Immigration Service
which should cooperate effectively with the IOM in preventing human trafficking, do not receive
adequate incentive. Therefore, they become easily susceptible to bribe and corrupt acts to bend
the rules in favour of people who engage in trafficking of persons in the country. This is because,
such traffickers have the capacity in terms of connections and wealth to buy off officials of such
government institutions enjoined to rather prevent the phenomenon of human trafficking in the
country. This made it difficult to obtain positive results though the IOM cooperates with
government and some other agencies to fight against human trafficking in the country.

3.6.4 Lack of Will Power by Governments to tackle the menace of Human Trafficking in
Ghana

Though the IOM cooperates with government and some other agencies to fight human trafficking
in the country, there exist lapses in the internal mechanisms and measures put in place by the
government to effectively tackle the phenomenon. For instance, previous governments of Ghana
have shown lackadaisical attitude in the fight against the trafficking of persons in the country. This
is evident in the extent to which officials or personnel of institutions responsible for tackling the
canker are motivated and empowered and also, the extent to which government does not interfere
with judicial processes when top politicians or their relations are found guilty of illicit trafficking
of persons in the country. This explained the reason why the US’ standards for evaluating the
progress and efforts of states in fighting human trafficking still ranks or considers Ghana as a Tier
Two Watchlist country for making progress to comply but not fully complying with the minimum
standards for elimination of trafficking yet.
3.6.5 Socio-cultural Practices in some Ghanaian communities

Furthermore, some social and cultural practices such as restriction of foreigners in interfering with the culture and practices of people in some communities served as a challenge in IOM’s activities to help prevent human trafficking in Ghana. A personal interview with an official of the IOM-GHANA, he revealed that:

*Sometimes, emergencies like funerals, outdooring and other social engagements are primary to some societies than information shared on human trafficking, because such emergencies form the core value of their life or culture. Some community leaders were quite tough to the IOM; to them there was no way any NGO especially UN subsidiary would come and work with them for free. Thus, instead of supporting physically and psychologically, they were rather sabotaging.*

This attitude by some societies and communities in Ghana militated against the effectiveness of the advocacy and awareness creation role of the IOM to prevent the phenomenon of human trafficking in Ghana, despite its cooperative efforts with the government and other relevant stakeholders.

3.6.6 Difficulty in Identifying Trafficking Cases

More so, the shrewd nature of victims and traffickers are considered “hidden populations” which makes it problematic to survey and draw samples from. Membership in hidden populations often involves stigmatized or illegal behaviour, leading individuals to refuse to cooperate, or give unreliable answers to protect their privacy." The denials by families that trafficking exist has also been a major challenge to preventing human trafficking in Ghana. In most cases, “the victims sometimes had false perception that the abuse they faced is because of their “bad luck” or because of their personal failure to protect themselves”. A study conducted by UNICEF indicated that it
remained difficult to acquire reliable data from origin countries on the destinations of trafficked persons. Majority of the victims who escaped are hesitant to return home and are concerned about being re trafficked and the stigma within their families. This also militated against efforts of the IOM in preventing the phenomenon of human trafficking in Ghana amidst its cooperation with the government and other state agencies.

3.6.7 Poor Cooperation between the IOM and other relevant stakeholder institutions in Ghana

Furthermore, the transnational nature of human trafficking requires the collective efforts of all stakeholders. However, the level of cooperation has remained questionable. This is because there are times personnel of government institutions and other stakeholder agencies which are supposed to cooperate with the IOM towards addressing human trafficking in Ghana showed negative attitudes, especially towards capacity building sessions organized by the IOM. An official of the IOM-Ghana pointed out how the IOM, at a point in time, struggled to get reports from district officials on the training they had given them to roll out the “FREE TO BE ME” toolkit. Excuses were later provided that the nature of the work was challenging and they could not afford to add on more work loads. Such situations also made it very difficult for the IOM to gain strides in its efforts towards the prevention of human trafficking in Ghana.

3.6.8 Financial Constraints

Mrs. Abena Annobea Asare (Deputy Director at Human Trafficking Secretariat, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection) stated that:

*The prevention of human trafficking in Ghana is a very expensive business or agenda. This is because it requires much funds for stakeholder consultations, round table conferences, as well as*
providing training, conferences and sometimes seminars. Without international donor support, initiatives by the IOM towards prevention of global human trafficking phenomenon including Ghana may be hampered. In addition, conducting field researches which the IOM thrives on for effective monitoring and evaluation for its preventive measures or initiatives is also very costly. This has crippled the capacity and capability of the IOM in effectively preventing the phenomenon of human trafficking in Ghana amidst cooperation with the government and other agencies.\

Consequent to the above, the IOM and the Government of Ghana were sometimes not able to meet their objectives of preventing human trafficking in the country due to financial constraints. Adequate funding therefore becomes the basis for which all activities and vision of the IOM could materialize. However, with lack of adequate funding, the activities, visions and mission of the IOM to prevent human trafficking in Ghana could be jeopardized.

3.7 Achievements of IOM in Helping Prevent Human Trafficking in Ghana

Notwithstanding the challenges which confront the IOM in its efforts, its roles in cooperation and other agencies had led to some achievements or impacts with regards to the prevention of human security in Ghana. For instance, the rescue activities of IOM have seen a considerable improvement over the years. By the 2015, the IOM had been successful in rescuing 779 child victims of trafficking and uniting them with their families. Again, in a bid to promote better collaboration between IOM and the Government of Ghana in helping prevent human trafficking, IOM assisted the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development (DSW/CD) and the Police Anti-Trafficking Unit (AHTU) to rescue a
total of twenty (20) children (nineteen boys and one girl between the ages of eight and seventeen years) from trafficking from three communities in the Volta Region including Anglo, Yeji and Kete-Krachi. All the rescued children were trafficked for exploitation into the fishing sector between the periods of two months to ten years. IOM also partnered INTERPOL in Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire and carried out a joint project to prevent child trafficking in the cocoa sector. The project was aimed at building the capacity of Ghanaian and Ivorian police forces and other victim assistance providers to combat human trafficking and child labour.

Furthermore, to help prevent human trafficking, IOM with partnership from UNICEF through the “Free to Be Me” project, increased awareness creation about the dangers of human trafficking within a broader context of child protection, with the aim of discouraging parents who might be willingly indulge in trafficking their own children. In the Volta Region, awareness creation was carried out effectively with focus on child rights and child protection.

In 2016, the IOM created awareness in about over 5,000 community members in trafficking prone communities in the Volta region. Also, 127 community volunteers were trained on prevention and protection of victims of child trafficking. More so, over 2,000 copies of illustrated booklets on the National Human Trafficking Law were printed including illustrated guidelines on how to identify and report cases, the legal rights of victims, and the consequences for perpetrators were distributed among communities in the Central and Volta Regions.”

Finally, IOM Ghana continues to complement the Government of Ghana’s capacity to prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking. In view of this, a total of 193 Government officials were trained
in identification, screening and prosecution in 2016. The victim-centered and trauma informed approach to the prosecution process was advocated by IOM-Ghana through advanced training on investigation and prosecution. This helped in the identification of human trafficking cases and culprits sanctioned to serve as a deterrent to prevent others from considering trafficking in persons as a livelihood strategy option in Ghana.

3.8 Conclusion

Generally, the implications of Human Trafficking in Ghana affect both the Human and National Security of the country. Trafficking in persons in Ghana is most prevalent in the coastal areas of Volta and Central Regions where male children are usually trafficked into forced labour to engage in fishing. Consequently, most of the initiatives or measures by the IOM in cooperation with the government and other relevant agencies garnered towards the prevention of human trafficking in Ghana are concentrated in these regions. Paramount among the activities carried out by the IOM in cooperation with the government and other agencies to prevent the phenomenon of human trafficking in Ghana included awareness creation, lobbying for effective legislation against human trafficking, promotion of economic development, assisting in capacity building and development of the “FREE TO BE ME” Tool Kits. To achieve the objectives of these activities towards prevention of human trafficking in Ghana, the IOM cooperates with other relevant stakeholders in the country aside the Government. These include the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the UNICEF-Ghana and The Anti-Trafficking Units of both the Ghana Police Service and the Ghana Immigration Service.
This cooperation has led to some achievements in the IOM’s role to prevent human trafficking in Ghana. Some of the achievements include sensitization and advocacy through education, formulation of legislative laws to criminalize human trafficking, as well as sanction culprits, establishment of The Anti-Trafficking Units of both the Ghana Police Service and the Ghana Immigration Service to identify trafficking in persons cases within and across borders and to also sanction culprits, rescue of trafficking victims to reintegrate them into society, capacity building training, workshops and seminars and also promotion of economic development through education, as well as technical and vocational training to empower people economically. These achievements serve as deterrent to prevent people practicing trafficking in persons in Ghana. Notwithstanding some success achieved, the IOM has encountered a number of challenges in its quest to prevent human trafficking in Ghana. These challenges include poverty and economic hardships, lack of political will on the part of the government, poor cooperation, among others. The next Chapter therefore provides some plausible postulations to surmount the challenges and be effective in the prevention of human trafficking in Ghana.
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4.0 Introduction

The study was carried out within the Theoretical framework of International Cooperation with the hypothesis that, “The IOM has played a significant role in cooperation with other stakeholders in the prevention of human trafficking in Ghana.” The theory of Cooperation was selected amidst other theories and concepts because it is particularly strong in explaining the role the IOM plays in cooperation with Government and other relevant stakeholder agencies in preventing the phenomenon of human trafficking in Ghana. The theoretical framework is suitable for the topic because it helps to better appreciate and understand that human trafficking is a global phenomenon. In dealing with it, requires cooperation between states and international organization. IOM as an inter-governmental organisation, in its efforts to help prevent human trafficking, collaborates with state agencies, international organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders.

Though IOM works collectively with their country offices to tackle migration issues including human trafficking globally, they also cooperate with individual countries, organisations and persons to tackle human trafficking. Despite the fact that human trafficking is a global human security threat, this study was primarily concerned with analysing the extent of collaboration between IOM, the Government of Ghana and other related state institutions in preventing Human Trafficking in Ghana. The IOM’s focuses on the four broad areas (i.e. the 4Ps; Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership) in tackling global human trafficking crises. However, this study was primarily concerned with analysing only the Preventive role of the IOM in cooperation
with the government and other agencies in tackling human trafficking in Ghana. In this regard, the objective of the study included to analyse the extent, nature and effect of human trafficking in Ghana; examine the measures put in place by IOM to help prevent Human Trafficking in Ghana; ascertain the extent of collaboration between IOM, the Government of Ghana and other related state institutions in preventing Human Trafficking in Ghana and finally examine the challenges and successes of IOM’s measures in preventing Human Trafficking in Ghana.

4.1 Summary of Key Findings

The following findings were derived from the study based on the analysis of data gathered from literature reviews and interviews; bearing in mind the statement of the problem, research questions and objectives of the study.

❖ The study showed that Human trafficking which is the illegal trade in human beings for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation or forced labour is a global menace which poses human security threats to its victims, as well as national security threats to states in which it is most prevalent.

❖ It was pointed out in the study that the causes of human trafficking could be grouped into pull and push factors. The ‘push’ factors refer to lack of employment opportunities, corruption, decline of border controls, economic imbalances among regions of the world, gender and ethnic discrimination, instability in the political, economic and social conditions in a country, conflict, hopelessness, poverty and the denial of necessities of life, as opposed to the ‘pull’ factors of demand for workers, lofty expectations of changes in other countries encouraged by global media and Internet access, and stories of returning migrants, the hope of higher standards of living, and the perceptions of many in poor communities that there are better
opportunities in larger cities or abroad. However, economic hardship and falling standards of living have contributed largely or are the major causes to the phenomenon of human trafficking in Ghana, West African and across the globe.

❖ It was unearthed from the study that human trafficking is a transnational threat which is most predominant in sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia, Central America and the Caribbean. In Africa, the phenomenon of human trafficking is most predominant in Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Mauritania, Guinea and Cote d’Ivoire. However, in West Africa, it is most prevalent in Nigeria, Ghana and Senegal.

❖ The study indicated that the phenomenon of human trafficking in Ghana is most prevalent in the Volta and Central Regions of Ghana, where male children are usually trafficked into forced labour to engage in fishing and female children usually trafficked for sexual exploitation.

❖ It was also revealed from the study that poverty is the major cause of human trafficking in Ghana. Consequently, people resort to human trafficking as a livelihood strategy without considering its human security to the citizens, as well as national security threats to the nation.

❖ It was unearthed from the study that notwithstanding global, sub-regional and national efforts to combat the global phenomenon of human trafficking, the menace continues to persist especially in Ghana due to difficulty to identify cases, coupled with institutional lapses and lack of political will on the part of the government to totally eradicate the human security threat in the country. As a result, there is a need for collaborative efforts or cooperation between the Government and International Organization such as the IOM to effectively address the menace in the country.
The research showed that the IOM in cooperation with the government and other relevant agencies garnered toward the prevention of human trafficking in the country through initiatives and measures which are mostly concentrated in the Volta and Central Regions of the country.

Analysis from the study also pointed out that paramount among the activities done by the IOM in cooperation with the government and other agencies to prevent the phenomenon of human trafficking in Ghana included awareness creation, lobbying for effective legislation against human trafficking, promotion of economic development, assisting in capacity building and development of the “FREE TO BE ME” Tool Kits.

Data analysis showed that the IOM cooperates with other relevant stakeholders in the country aside the Government. These include the UNICEF-Ghana and other local NGOs such as Sewa Foundation. This cooperation has led to some achievements in the role IOM has played in the prevention of human trafficking in Ghana.

The research unearthed that the cooperation between the IOM and other agencies geared toward preventing human trafficking in Ghana has led to sensitization and advocacy through education, formulation of legislative laws to criminalize human trafficking, as well as sanctioning of human trafficking culprits, establishment of The Anti-Trafficking Units of both the Ghana Police Service and the Ghana Immigration Service to identify trafficking in persons cases within and across borders and to also sanction culprits, rescue of trafficking victims to reintegrate them back into society, capacity building training, workshops and seminars and also promotion of economic development through education, as well as technical and vocational trainings to make empower people economically. These achievements serve as deterrent to prevent people from practicing trafficking in persons in Ghana.
Notwithstanding the above achievements, the study showed that IOM has encountered a number of challenges in its quest to prevent human trafficking in Ghana. These challenges include poverty and economic hardships, lack of political will on the part of the government, poor cooperation, among others.

4.2 Contribution of the Study to Theory, Policy Making and Practice

4.2.1 Contribution to Theory

This study contributes to theory by revealing how the theory of Cooperation could be utilized in explaining the response to the threats of human trafficking from a national security and human security perspective or approach. This study is one of the numerous researches on the topic to have utilize the concept of Cooperation to show the relational order that could be maintained by international organizations such as IOM and the government to ensure effective synergy in addressing the security threats of human trafficking. The theoretical application to this study is very essential because it helps in understanding the threats, efforts and challenges of addressing human trafficking in Ghana. It also helps in explaining how the socio-political environment in a developing country could shape the extent of tackling or addressing the human trafficking in the country.

4.2.2 Implications for Research, Practice and Policy

Most studies on the response to human trafficking in Ghana and to a larger extent developing countries, have focused predominantly on the challenges faced by the government in addressing the menace. Little exist in relation to the topic from the perspective of an international organization such as the IOM. By dealing extensively with the topic from an
international organization perspective, this study calls for several scholarships to broaden the scope of study on the topic to look into the partnerships, negotiations, awareness and campaigns as well as budgetary allocations for implementation and management of addressing human trafficking in West Africa, with particular reference to Ghana.

❖ This study also offers a number of practical solutions for institutions in charge of addressing human trafficking in Ghana. Countries which wish to implement policies toward addressing the menace could rely on experts from Ghana to deal with the security threat in its initial stages before escalating to become a national security threat which the resources and security personnel in the country wouldn’t be able to address.

❖ In terms of policy implications, the study calls for the need for governments in developing countries, particularly states in West Africa to promote clearly defined regulatory frameworks conducive to addressing the phenomenon of human trafficking in their countries.

4.3 Conclusions

Following the findings obtained from the study, the researcher reached the following conclusions:

❖ Based on the analysis and findings, the study concludes that the future of the youth and the economy is at great risk if conscious efforts are not taken by the government and all stakeholders to address or tackle the prevalence and menace of Human trafficking in the country now.

❖ This research posits that the phenomenon of Human Trafficking in Ghana undermines state institutions and personnel since the menace continues to persist. This could tarnish the global reputation or image of the country in terms of efforts at promoting good governance and development for the citizens of the state.
The study also posits that though the international community’s response to human trafficking in West Africa and Ghana in particular may have been tardy and inadequate, the situation in Ghana would have been worse but for the interventions of some international agencies such as the IOM. This proves the point that though international agencies and states are confronted with some challenges, they are still relevant in the contemporary international system. This is because they help in addressing or tackling transnational threats (such as Human trafficking); which are sometimes beyond the capabilities of a single state.

The study further concludes that there is still hope for resolving the prevalence and menace of human trafficking in Ghana, if conscious efforts would be made by the governments and all stakeholders to resolve or address the challenges identified in this study.

More so, the study concludes that the hypothesis that “The IOM has played a significant role in cooperation with other stakeholders in the prevention of human trafficking in Ghana,” has been proven. This is because there are pieces of evidence shown in this study to prove that some initiatives and intervention programmes by the IOM in cooperation with other stakeholders in the prevention of human trafficking in Ghana had yielded positive results.

4.4 Recommendations

Based on the findings from the study and suggestions made by respondents during interviews, the following recommendations are made:
4.4.1 Recommendations to the Government of Ghana

❖ The MoGCSP should intensify sensitization through public education to the general public on the menace or dangers of Human trafficking to both the Human Security of citizens, as well as the National Security of the country.

❖ The central government should resource the law enforcement agencies and the judicial system to deal with corruption in the country, particularly by sanctioning culprits, so as to discourage some government institutions and personnel from facilitating the activities of human traffickers in the country.

❖ The central government should institute measure to deal with youth unemployment generally and particularly in the Volta and Central Regions which are identified in this study as the area most prone to human trafficking in Ghana.

❖ The central government should mobilize financial resources to increase the number of personnel and to provide additional logistics for the Anti-Trafficking Units of both the Criminal Investigations Department of the Ghana Police Service and the Ghana Immigration Service.

❖ The National government should strengthen its collaboration with all international organisations involved in combating child trafficking.

4.4.2 Recommendations to IOM

❖ The IOM should broaden its research capacity into the menace of human trafficking both internationally and national into the causes, push and pull factors and solutions.

❖ Member countries should resource the IOM and IOM should in turn resource IOM-Ghana to enable IOM to effectively carry out its tasks of preventing human trafficking in Ghana.
The IOM should be consistent in its adherence to both International and National legal norms pertaining to human trafficking. This is meant to say that they must maintain standard at all times in the efforts against the fight of human trafficking in Ghana regardless of the dynamics and patterns pertaining to the human trafficking in the country.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. Books


B. Journal Articles


C. Reports/Documents


National Migration Policy for Ghana, April 2016.


D. Websites


International Organisation for Migration. Available at https://www.iom.int/our-work


IOM. https://www.iom.int/counter-trafficking.


Trafficking In Persons In The SADC Region Policy Brief, August 2016. Available at https://www.sadc.int/files/8414/7505/0081/SADC_TIP_Policy_Brief English_FINAL.pdf


E. Interviews

Interview with an official of IOM-Ghana on July 10, 2017 at the Office of IOM-Ghana at 12:00pm.

Interview with Mrs. Abena Annobea Asare (Deputy Director at Human Trafficking Secretariat, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection) on July 15, 2017 at Office of Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection at 2:00pm.

Interview with Mrs. Doris Manufemo Yiboe (Counter Trafficking Assistant at IOM-Ghana), on July 3, 2017 at the Office of IOM-Ghana at 12:00pm.

Interview with Mrs. Emelia Allan (Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF, Ghana) on July 20, 2017 at UNICEF-Ghana Office at 3:00pm.
APPENDIX

INTERVIEW GUIDE

TOPIC: THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) IN THE PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN WEST AFRICA: A CASE STUDY OF GHANA

NB: THE PURPOSE OF THIS INTERVIEW IS SOLEY FOR AN ACADEMIC PURPOSE AND NOTHING ELSE.

1. What is your perception about the current status quo of Human Trafficking in Ghana West Africa and Africa as a whole?
2. What conditions or factors are responsible for Human Trafficking in Ghana, West Africa and Africa as a whole?
3. What are the main issues or causes of Human Trafficking in Ghana?
4. What is the nature, extent, and effects of human trafficking in Ghana?
5. What are the measures, especially preventive measures, put in place by IOM to help stem Human Trafficking in Ghana?
6. To what extent has IOM acted or collaborated with the Government of Ghana and other relevant state institutions in Ghana in preventing Human Trafficking in Ghana?
7. What role have the Government and relevant state institutions in Ghana also played in preventing Human Trafficking in Ghana?
8. What are the challenges and successes of IOM’s endeavours in preventing Human Trafficking in Ghana?
9. How bleak or bright is the future of IOM in collaboration the Government of Ghana and other relevant state institutions in responding to the phenomenon of human trafficking in the country?
10. What do recommend as the way forwarded for addressing human trafficking in Ghana, West Africa and the Africa continent as a whole?