



SEND GHANA

(A Subsidiary of SEND Foundation of West Africa)

Accra, May - 2020

For immediate release

BOARD MEMBERS

Janet Mohammed (Chair)
Al-Hassan Y. Seini
Justina Anglaare
Emmanuel Darko
Moses Bakar

CEO

Siapha Kamara
siapha.kamara@sendwestafrica.org

HEAD OFFICE

A28 Regimanuel Estates,
Nungua Barrier,
Sakumono, Accra (D2D)
Tel: +233 (0) 302 716860
+233 (0) 302 716830

Email:

info@sendwestafrica.org

Website:

www.sendwestafrica.org

SALAGA

P. O. Box S182, Salaga
Tel: 233-03726 22088

TAMALE

H/No. RC 8, Rice City,
Gumani, Tamale
P. O. Box T1347, Tamale
Tel: 233-03720 22547 / 24515
Email:
tamale@sendwestafrica.org

Put more money into social protection...Ghanaians demand in new survey ahead of 2020 poll

The coronavirus pandemic, which is ravaging the world has shown, yet again, the critical need to invest in social protection as a country. As a new study by the United Nations has shown, this pandemic could turn back the clock 30 years on global poverty. Similarly, Deloitte, in their study on the impact of the Covid-19 on the economy of Ghana notes that Ghana's estimated GDP growth is set to plummet from a target of 6.8% to about 2.6% in 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. There could not be a better time to have a conversation on social protection than now, especially as the pandemic could potentially worsen the widening inequalities already present in the country.

The 2020 election presents a greater opportunity for Ghanaians to put some of the many issues confronting the country's poor and vulnerable on the national agenda as political parties campaign for the people's mandate. It is important to note that the adverse impact that Covid-19 would leave behind would pose an even daunting challenge for the next government to deliver on its promises. This makes it even more imperative for political parties to show a clear commitment on how they would deliver on some of the most critical aspects of social protection.

Long before the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in Ghana, SEND GHANA, and its partners have had broader consultations with citizens across the country to share their expectations of what they are looking forward to in the manifestos of contesting political parties to address poverty and inequality. Several development issues and concerns, including low coverage of social interventions, lack of dedicated sources of funding for social interventions, and insufficient transparency and accountability in the delivery of social interventions were the key issues citizens want political parties to commit to in the development of their social protection manifestoes.

Over the next few weeks, we would be engaging political parties and the media on the thematic areas around which the citizens' manifesto was developed.

Vision: A Ghana where people's rights and well being are guaranteed.

The Mission of SEND is to promote good governance and the equality of women and men in Ghana.



BOARD MEMBERS

Janet Mohammed (Chair)
Al-Hassan Y. Seini
Justina Anglaare
Emmanuel Darko
Moses Bakar

CEO

Siapha Kamara
siapha.kamara@sendwestafrica.org

HEAD OFFICE

A28 Regimanuel Estates,
Nungua Barrier,
Sakumono, Accra (D2D)
Tel: +233 (0) 302 716860
+233 (0) 302 716830

Email:

info@sendwestafrica.org

Website:

www.sendwestafrica.org

SALAGA

P. O. Box S182, Salaga
Tel: 233-03726 22088

TAMALE

H/No. RC 8, Rice City,
Gumani, Tamale
P. O. Box T1347, Tamale
Tel: 233-03720 22547 / 24515
Email:
tamale@sendwestafrica.org

SEND GHANA

(A Subsidiary of SEND Foundation of West Africa)

Below are some highlights of citizens demands on social protection

Thematic Areas	Issues	Citizens Demands
Coverage of Flagship Social Protection Interventions	i. The LEAP programme currently covers 1, 650, 000 extremely poor persons out of the 2.4 million extremely poor people in Ghana.	i. Expand the programme to cover all eligible extremely poor persons (750, 000) waiting to be enrolled onto the programme.
	ii. Limited coverage of illness, (preventive health related tests) and drugs under NHIS.	ii. Government should expand the coverage of NHIS to include preventive health tests, illnesses such as (e.g. Hepatitis, cancers, snake bites and other chronic illnesses) and essential drugs.
	iii. Limited coverage of School Feeding Programme	iii. The government should expand the programme to cover all public basic schools that are currently not under the programme
Financing of Social Protection Interventions	i. LEAP grant is inadequate in meeting the needs and nutritional requirements of enrolled households	i. Increase financial support to beneficiaries of LEAP by 100% to ensure that beneficiaries adequately meet their basic needs. A mechanism for review should also be established to reflect the prevailing inflation rate.
	ii. Unreliable sources of funding for Social Protection programmes.	ii. Establish dedicated sources of funding for Social Protection programmes.
	iii. Delays in releasing of capitation grants	iii. Ensure timely release of capitation grants to beneficiary schools
Delivery and transparency of Social Protection Programmes	i. Political culture surrounding the recruitment of Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) caterers and management of the programme at the district and national levels following the election of new Governments.	i. The School Feeding Secretariat should be made an authority to control political interference. Caterers on the program should be recruited from recognized associations and not by political affiliation.
	ii. Lack of effective monitoring mechanisms in the payment of caterers under the School Feeding Programme.	ii. Improve monitoring to ensure that caterers are not being overpaid
	iii. Unavailable guideline surrounding the selection of beneficiary schools under the SFP	iii. Produce an official document to guide the selection of beneficiary schools.

With just about 7 months to go to the next polls, the electorates must remain focused and demand from political parties to prioritize these critical issues in their social protection manifestoes and show a clear commitment to implementing them when they win the people's mandate.

Signed:

George Osei-Akoto-Bimpeh
(Country Director – SEND GHANA)
0501204944 / 0246784896

Vision: A Ghana where people's rights and well being are guaranteed.

The Mission of SEND is to promote good governance and the equality of women and men in Ghana.