

ANALYSIS OF 2020 POLITICAL PARTY MANIFESTOS ON SOCIAL PROTECTION

In collaboration with the CSO platform on the SDGs/SDG10, the Social Accountability Forum and the Civil Society Platform on Social Protection, SEND Ghana led the organization of stakeholder consultations and the compilation of inputs into the citizens' manifesto on social protection programmes and policies last year. The main objective was to influence the manifesto of the key political parties by adopting proposals made by citizens in addressing social protection issues and implementation and secondly to serve as a reference document to hold political parties /government accountable for the proper implementation of social protection programmes. It is important to note that the citizen's manifesto on social protection programmes and policies also provided public expectations on other social services that directly and indirectly complements key social protection programmes. Two political parties (NPP and NDC) having launched their manifestoes in the last few weeks, SEND Ghana has conducted an analysis to ascertain the extent to which the demands presented in the citizen's manifesto on social protection has reflected in the two political manifestos ahead of the December polls.

Colour Coding Interpretation

	Demand reflected
	Demand did not reflect but other promises made
	Demand did not reflect

Programme/Sector	Citizens Manifesto Demands	NDC Manifesto	NPP Manifesto
Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the programme to cover all eligible extremely poor persons waiting (750, 000) to be enrolled onto the programme and ensure timely payments. • Increase financial support to beneficiaries of LEAP by 100%. This could be done by a regular grant review process such that amounts are adjusted regularly in line with prevailing inflation rates. This will ensure that purchasing power of beneficiaries are not eroded. • The programme should also take into consideration the household size to determine the grant amount. • Introduce complementary services to capture other needs of beneficiaries such as school uniforms, free textbooks etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an Emergency Response LEAP Grant Programme. 	

Sector	Citizens Manifesto	NDC Manifesto	NPP Manifesto
National Health Insurance Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase coverage of NHIS to cover all eligible indigent groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend the National Health Insurance Act to provide an exemption to persons aged 65 years and above. • Give priority access to PWDs in registration and subsequent renewals with the National Health Insurance Scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NHIS will continue to be free for children, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage preventive care, health promotion and wellness. • Provide free anti-snake serum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the next four years, we will bring health promotion and prevention as part of primary health care under the NHIS.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitize the public on the costs and subventions provided on the NHIS scheme. There should also be education on patients right. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Patients' Protection Council to fully implement the Patient's Rights Charter. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the NHIS benefit package to cover clinical tests for females such as cervical and breast cancer tests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempt all cocoa farmers from NHIS premium payment for secondary and tertiary care. • Provide free primary health care. • Enforce the provisions of the National Health Insurance Act, 2012, Act 852, section 54 which requires the Minister for Finance to pay directly into the National Health Insurance Fund the National Health Insurance Levy collected within thirty days after the collection of the levy –No Capping; No Realignment. • Eliminate the cap on Internally Generated Funds in the health sector and ensure Departments in hospitals are given significant financial freedom for effective health care financing and staff motivation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the turnaround time of claims management to the barest minimum. • Ensure the sustainability of the NHIS scheme.

Sector	Citizens Manifesto	NDC Manifesto	NPP Manifesto
<p style="text-align: center;">Ghana School Feeding Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government must expand the programme to capture eligible schools that are currently not under the programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the School Feeding Programme 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce an official document to guide the selection of beneficiary schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promulgate the School Feeding Bill. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caterers should directly be supplied locally grown foodstuff from the buffer stock within their respective districts and communities to improve income of farmers within their locality. • Adopt measures to ensure that payments are released in time for caterers. • Improve monitoring to ensure that caterers are not being overpaid. • Provide complementary services under the programme (kitchens and canteens in schools) to enhance cooking and eating under hygienic conditions. • The School Feeding Secretariat should be made an authority to control political interference. The programme should be streamlined to eliminate political interference. Caterers on the program should be recruited from recognized associations and not political affiliation. • Recruitment of caterers in same community of schools to ensure that meals are served hot. • Government currently provides GHC 1 per day for a plate of food for a child. In reality, the amount is woefully inadequate to provide adequate and healthy diet for child development. We demand that the government increases the amount to GHC 2.50 to increase the quality of diet. • Again, Districts must liaise with nutrition officers for the regular 		

assessment of nutritional content and quality of meals prepared.

Sector	Citizens Manifesto	NDC Manifesto	NPP Manifesto
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure timely release of funds to beneficiary schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase budgetary allocation to basic education to enhance teaching and learning activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning grants will be disbursed to the targeted schools as a top-up to the capitation grant.

Capitation Grant		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide all eligible children especially those in under-served areas, with the necessary support and incentives to remain in school 	
Ghana National Household Registry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedite the Ghana National Household Registry exercise to ensure that extremely poor households are targeted for complementary services on Social Protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Ghana Household Registry by the first quarter of 2022. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalize and combine the Ghana National Household Registry and major Flagship Social Protection Programme databases and link them to the National Identification Card to create a “Single Registry” system. This will help manage both the selection, identification, and provision of social protection services and benefits to the vulnerable and disadvantaged.
Labor Intensive Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase education of citizens on LIPW initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Labour Intensive Public Works to urban-poor settlements. 	

Sector	Citizens Manifesto	NDC Manifesto	NPP Manifesto
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) and National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) should work closely together to enlighten citizens on available Social 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the legal framework by passing the Social Protection Bill and Aged Persons Bill to take care of the vulnerable and marginalized groups. 	

<p>Legal/Framework Awareness of Social Protection Programmes</p>	<p>Protection interventions and eligibility criteria.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the protection of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities and vulnerable persons. 	
<p>Financing Social Protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish dedicated sources of funding for Social Protection programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the institutions created to coordinate social protection at all levels, build a more efficient system for social protection delivery, ensure sustained financing, increase access, and enhance targeting of vulnerable groups as beneficiaries of social protection by completing the Ghana Household Registry. • Ensure sustained finance for social protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming social protection measures into MMDAs' operations by using, at least, 5% of local revenue for vulnerable and disadvantaged households, and Ensure sustained finance for social protection.

Sector	Citizens Manifesto	NDC Manifesto	NPP Manifesto
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more facilities in high schools to accommodate increasing numbers and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abolish the double-track system. 	

Education	abolish double track system. This will help to improve contact hours appreciably. Revise academic calendar for students to be able to complete syllabus		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding for holistic implementation of the Inclusive Education policy. This will ensure that the educational needs of street children, children with disabilities and special needs are adequately met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernize special and inclusive education by increasing quality tutoring and establishing a Centre of Excellence for Special Education to ensure quality education for children with special needs and children with disabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the existing Inclusive Education Policy, by establishing, revamping or equipping regional special education assessment centres to facilitate early and accessible assessment for children who may have special education needs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a clear funding strategy for the FSHS programme to ensure its continuity. Streamline relationship with PTA's and Old Student's Associations to enable them support the program with required facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make the Free Senior High School Programme better by ensuring that its numerous challenges are addressed, and higher standards introduced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidate the implementation of the Free SHS and Free TVET programmes.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend FSHS policy to cover TVETs. Make TVET attractive by constructing more centers and resourcing them with modern equipment and provide quotas to target girls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide free Technical and Vocational Education at the secondary and tertiary levels. Train more TVET teachers Rebrand Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to promote interest and acceptability amongst the youth as a programme of first choice and provide incentives for TVET students and instructors. Re-launch the Skills Development Fund (SDF) to serve as an intervention fund to cater for TVET graduates and others who venture into self-employment. Construct new TVET schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidate the implementation of the Free SHS and Free TVET programmes. Train and employ more teachers for Early Childhood Education, Primary, French, STEM, TVET, Special Needs and other areas as needed. Complete the implementation of the 5-year Strategic Plan on TVET and establish a national Skills Development Fund.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory re-entry and integration of teenage mothers into schools or the provision of skills development training to enhance their economic wellbeing. The re-entry guide developed for teenage mothers to return to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a free National Apprenticeship Programme by establishing centers in TVET institutions in districts to provide free training and sponsor youth for free apprenticeship training with certified master craftsmen/women. 	

<p style="text-align: center;">Education</p>	<p>school should be widely disseminated with adequate public education. Implementation should also be regularly monitored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review FSHS to target the most vulnerable in society and ensure that it addresses inequities to the access of second cycle education. There should be an effective monitoring mechanism of schools to ensure proper delivery of the programme. • Develop a clear pathway for graduates of TVETs institutions to enroll in Technical Universities and other tertiary institutions. • Strengthen and resource guidance and counseling units in schools. This includes ensuring that the unit is occupied by qualified professionals to provide needed guidance for students during the selection of courses in line with their academic strengths and abilities. • Provide employment advise upon completion of studies and referral to relevant institutions such as Youth Employment Agency etc. or further training' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the Free SHS programme to cover students in private Senior High Schools in underserved /deprived areas. • Build the capacities of the youth and create more employment through the Youth Employment Agency (YEA). • Collaborating with TVET institutions to activate agriculture-related entrepreneurship training and skills development. • Deepen life skills, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship in TVET curriculum to create more jobs. 	
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Sector	Citizens Manifesto	NDC Manifesto	NPP Manifesto
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide mobility devices (wheelchairs, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide modern assistive medical devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase resources and infrastructure for

Persons with Disability	<p>clippers, white canes and clutches) at no cost.</p>	<p>such as hearing aids and walking sticks to children with special needs.</p>	<p>special needs education across the country.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Assemblies should be made responsible for ensuring that both public and private structures within their jurisdiction are disability friendly and resources should be allocated to make public institutions more disability friendly. Review the Disability Act 715 and make it compliant with the UNCRPD. Develop a supporting Legislative Instrument (LI) and get it passed as well. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operationalize the Ghana Accessibility Standards on Built Environment adopted in 2016 to facilitate access to public places for Persons with Disability. Modernize education facilities for Persons with Disability and the use of customized ICT learning, including the creation of an information hub/portal. Promulgate a legislative instrument to the Disability Act, 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will expand the scope, membership, and mandate of the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee tasked with mainstreaming disability issues in local government, to encompass the implementation, broadly, the provisions in the Persons With Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715), in particular in addressing access to facilities, transportation and equal employment opportunities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserve quota among governance positions for PWDs. The Affirmative Action Bill should include women and girls with disabilities. Invest in skills training for PWDs. Reserve quotas for the employment of PWDs in the formal sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the legal and policy framework by enacting: The Affirmative Action Bill. Provide special support for Women with Disabilities for promotion of their welfare, empowerment and equalization of opportunities. Introduce a percentage of affirmative action for PWDs for all jobs created during our tenure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will also, in line with our social development philosophy, ensure the enactment and operationalization of the Ageing Bill, as well as the Affirmative Action Bill.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in the collation of data on PWDs to inform policy and the design of interventions for PWDs. The data should take cognizance of the different forms of disability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include in the yet to be conducted Population Census, a National Disability Census, to determine the full extent of disability in Ghana to provide credible data on the socio-economic profiles of PWDs in Ghana. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treatment of children under five years at no cost. Provide support services for parents of children with disability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide tax reliefs for working parents with special needs children to enable them pay for 24-hour care for the children while they are at work. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of district community centers purposely for the disabled to help identify and provide support services to disabled persons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create disability desks at all MMDAs to facilitate mainstreaming of disability issues into local governance. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide counseling services for PWDs and take legal actions against individuals who 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train more facilitators in specialized areas to effectively assist children with 	

Persons with Disability	<p>stigmatize PWD's.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of the 3% DACF allocation to PWD care should be guided by law. Fund allocation should be based on the number of PWDs in specific districts to ensure equity. • There should be at least two sign language interpreters in every district to assist health service delivery to deaf persons. • Institute a program to protect children with intellectual and developmental disabilities from sexual abuse. Prosecute persons who sexually abuse PWDs. • Incorporate PWD's specific services (such as the availability of lawyers who can interpret sign language) in the justice system. 	<p>disabilities and monitor their growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the percentage of the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) reserved for Persons with Disability. • Collaborate with the Paediatric Society of Ghana and parents to institute early medical screening for new-borns and pre-school children in order to identify children with special needs and address their challenges. • Establish a Disability Fund in the Districts to be managed by relevant stakeholders and review Guidelines for disbursement and management of this Fund to ensure strict compliance with the aims of the DACF. • Establish an Orphan and Vulnerable Child Support Scheme • Provide free tertiary education for persons with disabilities. 	

Sector	Citizens Manifesto	NDC Manifesto	NPP Manifesto
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce Reproductive Health Education in the education curriculum and expand its delivery through community platforms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an interagency partnership programme to address critical issues related to youth health and 	

Women, Children and Adolescent Girls		other needs such as adolescent reproductive health and substance abuse.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforcement of laws that seek to protect children and teenagers from sexual abuse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promulgate an anti-sexual harassment law. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of temporary shelter to accommodate abused children and street children. Counselling services should be provided for abused children and those from broken homes. Provide support services such as shelter at sub national levels to house victims of domestic violence and other forms of abuse, counselling, medical care and legal aid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the construction and upgrading of shelters for vulnerable persons such as survivors of gender-based violence and trafficked persons. Work towards establishing two shelters- one in the Northern sector in Tamale and the other in the middle belt in Sunyani. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make pads more accessible by reducing the cost of pads (elimination of tax) and providing viable local alternatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisit and scale up our intervention of providing free sanitary towels to needy and vulnerable females with the aim of keeping all girls in school throughout the academic calendar as we improve on their health and general well-being. 	While supporting the private sector to ramp up production locally, we will eliminate import duty on sanitary pads to improve health outcomes, particularly for girls.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institute a directive to eliminate land ownership discrimination among men and women. Government should support women to own lands through acquisition of land banks for women farmers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Land for Wealth policy for the youth and vulnerable groups to make land relatively cheap and accessible for their economic activities and wealth creation. Facilitate easier access to land for women for their maximum participation in agriculture. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depoliticize the focus of MASLOC and ensure that majority of women benefit. Monitoring systems should be strengthened to ensure the repayment of given loans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the minimum group amount to market women by one hundred percent (100%). 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend maternity leave to 6 months to satisfy exclusive breastfeeding and also provide education to men on its importance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend the law to provide four months maternity leave, in addition to existing legal maternity provisions and grant seven days paternity leave. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequately resource District Social Welfare offices and the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) to effectively execute their mandate. Develop and implement life skills programmes to enhance women and girls' empowerment. Government should set up and equip adolescent corners with contraceptives for adolescents. Girls who inevitably experience vulnerability due to teenage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource and operationalize the Victim Support Fund under the Domestic Violence Act. Work towards establishing two shelters- one in the northern sector in Tamale and the other in the middle belt in Sunyani. Create a safe environment for street children, 	

<p>Women, Children and Adolescent Girls</p>	<p>pregnancy should be supported with social, health and education services. They should also benefit from livelihoods programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective sensitization on the impact of child neglect on child development. • Awareness creation on the effects of child marriage and discriminatory practices among adolescent girls. • Provide institutional support for girls who are at risk of child marriage or already married. • Government should put in place measures like; educating parents and community members on the harmful consequences of child marriage and enforce laws to curtail child marriages in Ghana. • Increase investment in funding the national framework on ending child marriage by the MoGCSP. • Abolish harmful cultural practices among young girls such as the trokosi system. Strict punishment should be meted out to culprits. • Strengthening security at our borders to prevent child trafficking. Public awareness to improve vigilance and provision of state security such as the police in schools to protect students from rape and abduction. • Parents who shirk their responsibilities should be punished. Support should be provided for single parents to help them apply to the court for child maintenance. • Scholarships should be provided for brilliant girls who study science. • Government should strictly regulate the sale of drugs without prescription in the open market to curtail drug/substance abuse among adolescents. • Strengthen advocacy on women breaking cultural barriers and mainstream gender into social protection design and delivery. • Deliberate strategy to target women in SP programmes and PFJ. Provide more subsidy for women farmers under PFJ. 	<p>including kayayees, by providing safe accommodation for them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the minimum group amount to market women by one hundred percent (100%) • Enforcing the Trafficking against Persons Act. • Work towards the attainment of a minimum 30 per cent quota of appointments for women. • Ensure gender mainstreaming in environmental issues and develop targeted solutions for implementation. • Establish a Community Female Mentorship Programme and an agency for the protection. 	
<p>Women, Children and Adolescent Girls</p>			