

# SOCIAL PROTECTION BILL, 2023

## MEMORANDUM

The purpose of the Bill is to promote access to social protection, provide social protection services to specified persons and establish and specify institutional arrangements to secure social protection.

The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana guarantees the well-being of all citizens and the protection of the chronically poor, socially vulnerable and economically at risk persons by providing adequate means of livelihood and public assistance.

Aside from the Constitutional obligations to provide for the destitute in society, the obligations of the country under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union require the country to provide for the marginalised in the country.

In the bid to promote social protection in the country, Ghana has over the past twenty-five years implemented various programmes such as the Programme of Action to Mitigate the Social Costs of Adjustment, the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy and the National Social Protection Strategy, 2007.

Furthermore, the roll out of the School Feeding Programme, Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme and the start-up of the Labour Intensive Public Works Programme have deepened interventions on social protection.

There is the need for a national legislation to provide social protection for people in extreme poverty, guarantee protection for the destitute and establish institutional arrangements to provide for the chronically poor, economically at risk, socially vulnerable and persons affected by a national or local emergency. The legislation will facilitate continuity of social protection for the poor and strengthen the coordinating structure at both national and sub-national levels. Additionally, legislation on social protection will promote a peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at each level.

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*Clause 1* deals with application. The Bill applies to the chronically poor, economically at risk, socially vulnerable and persons affected by a national or local emergency.

The objects of the Bill as specified in *clause 2* are to, with regard to the persons specified in *clause 1*, reduce poverty and vulnerability, promote well-being, sustainable livelihoods and decent work and ensure gender and disability responsiveness in social protection.

Other matters in respect of the object of the Bill include providing for other actions including emergency assistance necessary for the relief of persons affected by a national or local emergency, support actions to achieve food security and improvement in the nutrition of the persons specified in *clause 1* and build efficient institutions at all levels to provide accountable social protection delivery.

*Clauses 3 to 9* deal with social protection. *Clause 3* requires a person to meet the eligibility criteria for a social protection intervention or a social protection programme in order for the person to benefit from the social protection intervention or social protection programme.

*Clause 4* provides for policy directives on social protection.

*Clause 5* provides for the role of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. The role of the Ministry includes to co-ordinate and provide technical support for social protection interventions and social protection programmes, ensure that a comprehensive and integrated social protection monitoring and evaluation system is synchronised with the National Development Policy Framework and collaborate with the Minister responsible for Finance to mobilise sustainable funding and technical assistance from the national budget, development partners, civil society organisations, and the private sector, to support the implementation of social protection interventions and social protection programmes.

Further, the Ministry is to develop linkages among social protection programmes to enable the integrated delivery of the social protection

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programmes and ensure achievement of results; operate management information systems to track progress of various social protection interventions; through the National Household Registry, mobilise information, and analyse and categorise data related to social protection; and conduct research on social protection in collaboration with other stakeholders.

The Ministry is also to develop guidelines to align monitoring and evaluation of social protection to the National Development Policy Framework. The monitoring and evaluation guidelines are to include acceptable formats and types of data to be collected and reported on, and methodology and tools to be adopted for data collection.

Under *clause 6*, the Ministry is to co-ordinate social protection through the Social Protection Directorate of the Ministry.

*Clause 7* provides the functions of the Social Protection Directorate. The functions of the Social Protection Directorate include to collaborate with other directorates of the Ministry to co-ordinate the formulation, programming and implementation of social protection policies, the planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of social protection interventions and social protection programmes, the management information systems relevant for the implementation of social protection interventions and social protection programmes, the identification and selection of beneficiaries for social protection programmes through a National Household Registry to improve targeting, a case management system to respond to queries and grievances related to social protection; and the implementation of the guidelines for monitoring and evaluation issued under paragraph *(h)* of subclause (1) of *clause 5*.

*Clause 8* provides for the collaboration by specialised agencies set out in the First Schedule, and an agency responsible for a flagship social protection programme specified in Part B of the Second Schedule, with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to deliver social protection interventions.



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*Clause 9* deals with the collaboration by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection with the Ministry responsible for Local Government and the Office of the Head of Local Government Service to ensure the dissemination of social protection related information to District Assemblies, ensure the effective implementation of social protection programmes in District Assemblies, facilitate mainstreaming of social protection in the programming, planning and budget prioritisation of District Assemblies, promote provision of relevant social services and infrastructure by District Assemblies, collate relevant data on issues concerned with social protection at the local level, and oversee the implementation of pro-poor programmes by District Assemblies.

*Clauses 10 and 11* deal with National Household Registry. *Clause 10* establishes the National Household Registry as a unit under the Research, Statistics and Information Management Directorate of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

*Clause 11* provides for the functions of the National Household Registry to include collecting and maintaining relevant data on non-poor, poor, and vulnerable individuals and households, categorising the data collected for the purpose of targeting beneficiaries for social protection interventions, and updating the data collected every five years in consonance with the Ghana Living Standards Survey data and other relevant indicators. The National Household Registry is also mandated to establish mechanisms to facilitate co-ordination and data-sharing protocols with relevant programmes, institutions and individuals in data management and utilisation in accordance with enactments on data protection; and agree on data-sharing protocols with relevant agencies and programmes to facilitate emergency responses.

*Clauses 12 and 13* deal with targeting of beneficiaries. *Clause 12* provides for the identification of beneficiaries of a social protection intervention or a social protection programme, from the database of the National Household Registry. The identification of beneficiaries is subject to the eligibility criteria of the social protection intervention or social protection programme.



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*Clause 13* provides for community targeting. Under the *clause*, the selection of communities for a social protection intervention or a social protection programme is to be guided by the National Household Registry and statistics published by the Ghana Statistical Service or any other statutory body.

*Clauses 14 to 27* deal with social protection interventions. *Clause 14* establishes the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Management Unit. *Clause 15* provides for the functions of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Management Unit to include managing cash transfer programmes; developing and implementing programme of activities, annual work plans, and budgets with respect to the work of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme; coordinating and managing targeting, enrolment onto the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme and payment processes; and operating claims and grievance-resolution processes in accordance with the case-management system provided for in *clause 62*.

Other functions of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Management Unit are to undertake internal monitoring and evaluation of cash transfer programmes at regional, district and community levels; provide timely and consistent communication on social protection to all stakeholders to facilitate social accountability; develop relevant manuals, guidelines and materials to support the activities in paragraphs (a) to (f) of the *clause*; and build the capacities of district officials for the implementation of cash transfer programmes at the district and community levels.

*Clause 16* provides the issuance of guidelines by the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Management Unit of the Ministry for beneficiary identification and receipt of cash transfers. The *clause* further mandates the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Management Unit to re-assess the eligibility status of beneficiaries of each cash transfer programme based on the programme design.

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*Clause 17* mandates the Ministry to collaborate with designated Ministries, Departments, Agencies and other entities to provide social protection support through social assistance, productive and financial inclusion, emergency assistance, social protection through social insurance, and complementary social services and social development interventions.

Under *clause 18*, the Ministry is further mandated to collaborate with designated Ministries, Departments, Agencies and other entities to provide support to persons specified in clause 1, in the form of monetary assistance including cash transfers, and non-monetary assistance including in-kind support, fee waivers, and subsidies to enhance access to social services.

*Clause 19* mandates the Minister to, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, provide regular cash transfers to the chronically poor, economically at risk, socially vulnerable and persons affected by a national or local emergency, through cash transfer programmes.

*Clause 20* prohibits the abuse of cash transfer. The abuse of cash transfer programmes involves providing false information to receive a social cash grant; as a caregiver, receiving cash on behalf of someone knowing that the person is no longer eligible to receive the cash transfer, collecting funds of a beneficiary who is deceased, refusing to remit the funds due an eligible person, collecting funds on behalf of a person who has permanently relocated outside the country; as a service provider, official or representative of a financial institution or implementing agency, knowingly underpaying, overpaying or withholding payment to an eligible beneficiary, denying in any other way an eligible beneficiary of the entitlement of the beneficiary without reasonable cause, or making payment to a person who is ineligible for the payment.

*Clause 21* provides for the termination of a cash transfer by the appropriate authority where the cash transfer was obtained through misrepresentation, deceit, fraud or failure to disclose information, the cash transfer was approved or paid in error, or the circumstances of the

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beneficiary has changed and the beneficiary is no longer eligible for the cash transfer.

*Clause 22* provides for the suspension of a cash transfer by the appropriate authority to, or on behalf of a person who does not access the funds for a continuous period of six months. The appropriate authority is empowered to reinstate the payment of the cash transfer where the appropriate authority is satisfied that the reasons proffered by the applicant justifies a reinstatement of the cash transfer.

*Clause 23* provides for the refund of a cash transfer. Where the appropriate authority makes payment to a person who is not entitled to the cash transfer, the amount paid in error constitutes an amount due to the State and which amount is to be repaid by that person or, if the person is deceased, by the estate of the person. Further, a public officer who knowingly pays a cash transfer in excess of the permitted amount is to be surcharged for the loss.

Under *clauses 24, 25 and 26*, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, in collaboration with relevant bodies, is to facilitate the provision of productive and financial inclusion to vulnerable persons, develop and administer social insurance schemes designed to meet the needs of the chronically poor, economically at risk, socially vulnerable and persons affected by a national or local emergency, and identify and implement social assistance, productive inclusion and social insurance interventions in the event of emergencies.

*Clause 27* provides for the implementation and effective management of the Ghana School Feeding Programme.

*Clauses 28 to 31* deal with complementary social services and social protection interventions. *Clause 28* provides for education interventions, *clause 29* provides for health interventions and *clause 30* provides for other social assistance interventions including psychosocial support for the chronically poor, economically at risk, socially vulnerable and persons affected by a national or local emergency.



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*Clause 31* prohibits the divulgence of information provided by a beneficiary of a social protection intervention or social protection programme, except in the performance of an official function, as a requirement of law or by an order of court, or with the consent of the beneficiary of the social protection intervention or social protection programme.

The role of the Ministry responsible for Finance with respect to funding for social protection is provided for under *clause 32*. Under the *clause*, the Ministry responsible for Finance is to collaborate with the Ministry responsible for Trade and Industry to ascertain the priority funding needs of social protection interventions before preparation of the national budget for the ensuing year. The Ministry responsible for Finance is further obligated to make specific allocation for social protection interventions and the Social Protection Fund; recommend tax exemptions or rebates for private sector organisations that contribute to the implementation of social protection interventions, or towards the Social Protection Fund; recommend relevant financial institutions to provide micro-credit facilities to economically at-risk persons; ensure consistency between social protection policy and financing; oversee the financial linkages among the social protection programmes undertaken under the Bill to ensure synergies, value for money and the elimination of duplication and wastage in the funding of social protection programmes; ensure reliable financing of the non-contributory social protection programme, in accordance with applicable legislation; and review cash transfer sizes annually to reflect changing economic circumstances and revise as appropriate, in consultation with the Ministry.

*Clauses 33 to 39* deal with the Social Protection Fund. *Clause 33* establishes the Social Protection Fund. The object of the Fund as specified in *clause 34* is to provide financial resources to develop, coordinate and implement social protection initiatives and other related activities, including emergency assistance and relief, provide financial resources for the management of emergency situations, and mobilise funds for social protection delivery. To achieve the object of the Fund, the moneys from

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the Fund shall be applied to the implementation of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme; emergency cash transfer to persons affected by local and national emergencies; and any other activity for the effective and efficient fulfilment of the object of the Fund.

*Clause 35* provides for sources of money for the Fund to include moneys approved by Parliament, grants, donations and other voluntary contributions, and other moneys that may become lawfully payable to the Fund.

Standard provisions relating to bank account for the Fund, management of the Fund, accounts and audit, and annual report and other reports are provided for in *clauses 36, 37, 38 and 39* respectively.

*Clauses 40 to 45* deal with National Social Protection Committee. *Clause 40* establishes the National Social Protection Committee for the effective and efficient implementation of the Act. *Clause 41* provides for the National Social Protection Committee to be composed of fourteen members.

The functions of the National Social Protection Committee are outlined in *clause 42*. Under *clause 42*, the National Social Protection Committee is to provide strategic oversight responsibility for the coordination and delivery of social protection in the country by reviewing and recommending for approval the harmonised annual plans for social protection submitted by collaborating Ministries, Departments, Agencies and partners; periodically reviewing targets for social protection within the context of the National Development Policy Framework; reviewing and recommending for approval the monitoring and evaluation framework for social protection and ensuring compliance by social protection programmes; approving the implementation of new social protection programmes; ensuring timely submission of periodic reports on social protection programmes; making proposals to ensure adequate and sustainable funding for social protection programmes; and promoting intersectoral advocacy and joint communication on social protection issues.

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Standard provisions on tenure of office of members of the National Social Protection Committee, meetings of the National Social Protection Committee, and disclosure of interest are provided for in *clauses* 43, 44, and 45 respectively.

*Clauses* 46 to 50 deal with the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee. *Clause* 46 establishes the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee. The Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee is to consist of twenty-nine members, *clause* 47.

*Clause* 48 provides the functions of the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee. The Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee is to, among others, integrate and harmonise social protection policy initiatives, programmes, plans and budgets from Ministries, Departments and Agencies for the consideration of the National Social Protection Committee, implement the decisions of the National Social Protection Committee and establish guidelines, standards and procedures for the development and implementation of social protection interventions and social protection programmes.

*Clauses* 44 and 45 on the meetings of the National Social Protection Committee and disclosure of interest apply, with necessary modification, to the members of the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee *clause* 49.

Under *clause* 50, the Social Protection Directorate is the Secretariat for the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee.

*Clauses* 51 to 61 deal with coordination and monitoring of social protection at the decentralised level. *Clause* 51 mandates the Inter-Ministerial Co-ordinating Committee established in section 204 of the Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936) to ensure that social protection is mainstreamed and integrated into the plans and budgets of the Regional Coordinating Councils and District Assemblies.



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*Clause 52* provides for the functions of the Regional Coordinating Council in the delivery of social protection to include monitoring the implementation of social protection interventions and social protection programmes in the District Assemblies, conducting spot checks on social protection interventions and social protection programmes in the District Assemblies, providing technical assistance for social protection interventions and social protection programmes that are required in the District Assemblies, preparing and submitting annual reports on the monitoring of social protection to the Minister through the Minister responsible for Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development and mainstreaming and integrating social protection into the plans and budgets of the Regional Coordinating Councils and District Assemblies.

*Clause 53* mandates each District Assembly to establish a District Social Protection Implementation Team to support the implementation, coordination and monitoring of social protection interventions and social protection programmes at the district and sub-district levels. The District Social Protection Implementation Team is to operate under the supervision of the District Planning Co-ordinating Unit of the District Assembly and is to ensure the integration of social protection into the medium-term development plans, annual operational plans, and budgets of the District Assembly.

The composition of the District Social Protection Implementation Team is specified under *clause 54*.

Under *clause 55*, the functions of the District Social Protection Implementation Team include to provide a mechanism for harmonising social protection related initiatives, including initiatives provided by civil society organisations and private sector interventions, in the District, ensure adequate information-sharing relating to social protection interventions and social protection programmes, ensure linkages between social protection interventions and social protection programmes and the planning, budgeting, monitoring and other processes in the District

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and consolidate the work of committees on social protection related programmes in the district.

Provisions on meetings under *clause 44* and disclosure of interest under *clause 45*, apply with the necessary modification, to the District Social Protection Implementation Team, *clause 56*.

Under *clause 57*, the Head of the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development is the Secretary to the District Social Protection Implementation Team. The functions of the Secretary to the District Social Protection Implementation Team are provided for under *clause 58*.

*Clause 59* mandates each District Assembly to engage, through the District Social Protection Implementation Team, Community Facilitators from each community in the District to act as a liaison between the District Assembly and the community.

*Clause 60* provides for the criteria for qualification for a Community Facilitator and *clause 61* specifies the functions of a Community Facilitator.

*Clauses 62 to 65* deal with grievances, appeals and case management system. *Clause 62* provides for a complaints mechanism and case management. Under *clause 62*, the operational manual of a social protection programme is required to incorporate a complaint mechanism, which includes information on the procedure for lodging complaints, queries or grievances on social protection, and a case management mechanism, which includes specification on timelines for feedback on and redress of complaints, queries or grievances on social protection.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection is to establish a Unified Social Protection Case Management System to integrate cases and grievances from all social protection programmes and interventions, *clause 63*. The Unified Social Protection Case Management System is a central facility equipped to track and ensure timeous redress

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and feedback to complaints of beneficiaries and stakeholders about the quality of service delivery and other queries on social protection. A social protection programme is to inform the Unified Social Protection Case Management System of a complaint received and outline steps for resolution of the complaint. The Unified Social Protection Case Management System is mandated to monitor the resolution of all complaints received.

*Clause 64* provides for complaints submitted to the Unified Social Protection Case Management System to be submitted through a Help-Line provided by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and any other channel approved by the Ministry.

*Clause 65* provides for levels and processes of complaints resolution. An appeal on a complaint made, lies through the Unified Social Protection Case Management System to the Head of the Single Window Citizens Engagement Services and further to the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee. Furthermore, an appeal which involves an officer or an agent involved in the implementation of a social protection intervention or social protection programme, may lie to the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice.

Miscellaneous provisions are dealt with in *clauses 66 to 70*. *Clause 66* prohibits a public officer from acting in a manner or assuming a position in which the duty of the public officer under the Bill conflicts or may conflict with the personal interest of the public officer. A conflict of interest arises where the public officer obtains a pecuniary interest or any other interest in the performance of the duty of the public officer.

*Clause 67* provides for offences. These include knowingly making a false or misleading statement, making a false representation, failing to disclose a material fact, or inducing or attempting to induce an authorised person, for the purpose of or in connection with a claim for social assistance for the benefit of the offender or another person. It is also an offence to abuse a cash transfer or divulge the personal information of a



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beneficiary of a social protection intervention or social protection programme contrary to *clauses* 20 and 31 of the Bill.

*Clauses* 68 and 69 provide for the making of guidelines and Regulations respectively. The interpretation of words and expressions used in the Bill is dealt with in *clause* 70.

**HAJIA LARIBA ZUWEIRA ABUDU**

*Minister responsible for Gender,  
Children and Social Protection*

Date: 27th September, 2023.

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A  
**BILL**  
ENTITLED

**SOCIAL PROTECTION ACT, 2023**

AN ACT to promote access to social protection; provide social protection services to specified persons; establish and specify institutional arrangements to secure social protection; and provide for related matters.

PASSED by Parliament and assented to by the President.

*Preliminary Provisions*

**Application of the Act**

1. This Act applies to persons who fall within the following categories of vulnerability:

- (a) chronically poor;
- (b) economically at risk;
- (c) socially vulnerable; and
- (d) persons affected by a national or a local emergency.

**Object of the Act**

2. (1) The object of the Act is to

- (a) reduce poverty and vulnerability among the persons specified in section 1;

- (b) promote the well-being of the persons specified in section 1;
  - (c) promote sustainable livelihoods, and decent work for the persons specified in section 1;
  - (d) ensure gender and disability responsiveness in social protection;
  - (e) provide for other actions including emergency assistance necessary for the relief of persons affected by a national or local emergency;
  - (f) support actions to achieve food security and improvement in the nutrition of the persons specified in section 1; and
  - (g) build efficient institutions at all levels to provide accountable social protection delivery.
- (2) For the purpose of subsection (1), the relevant stakeholders shall
- (a) protect and promote the socio-economic well-being of the persons specified in section 1 through an improved targeting mechanism;
  - (b) promote coherence and complementarity of social protection interventions and social protection programmes in the public and private sectors;
  - (c) advocate adequate and reliable funding to sustain social protection delivery including the social protection interventions and social protection programmes specified in the Fourth Column of the Third Schedule; and
  - (d) facilitate
    - (i) understanding of the scope and basis of social protection in accordance with the socio-economic development of the country;
    - (ii) effective sharing of knowledge and application of lessons learnt through programme implementation; and
    - (iii) efficient mobilisation and dissemination of timely, reliable and disaggregated data.

*Social Protection*

**Eligibility for social protection intervention**

3. A person specified under section 1, may benefit from a social protection intervention or social protection programme specified in the fourth column of the Third Schedule if that person meets the eligibility criteria of the social protection intervention or the social protection programme.

**Policy directives**

4. The Minister is responsible for giving policy directives on social protection.

**Role of the Ministry in social protection**

5. (1) The Ministry shall

- (a) co-ordinate and provide technical support for social protection interventions and social protection programmes;
- (b) ensure that a comprehensive and integrated social protection monitoring and evaluation system is synchronised with the National Development Policy Framework;
- (c) collaborate with the Minister responsible for Finance to mobilise sustainable funding and technical assistance from sources including
  - (i) the national budget,
  - (ii) development partners,
  - (iii) civil society organisations, and
  - (iv) the private sector,to support the implementation of social protection interventions and social protection programmes;
- (d) develop linkages among social protection programmes to
  - (i) enable the integrated delivery of the social protection programmes; and
  - (ii) ensure achievement of results;
- (e) operate management information systems to track progress of various social protection interventions;
- (f) through the National Household Registry
  - (i) mobilise information, and



- (ii) analyse and categorise data related to social protection;
  - (g) conduct research on social protection in collaboration with other stakeholders; and
  - (h) develop guidelines to align monitoring and evaluation of social protection to the National Development Policy Framework.
- (2) The monitoring and evaluation guidelines developed under paragraph (h) of subsection (1) shall include
- (a) acceptable formats and types of data to be collected and reported on; and
  - (b) methodology and tools to be adopted for data collection.

#### **Co-ordination of social protection**

6. (1) The Ministry shall co-ordinate social protection through the Social Protection Directorate of the Ministry.

(2) A Ministry, Department or Agency shall submit the annual work plan and budget on social protection of the Ministry, Department or Agency to the Social Protection Directorate of the Ministry.

#### **Functions of the Social Protection Directorate**

7. The Social Protection Directorate of the Ministry shall collaborate with other directorates of the Ministry to

- (a) co-ordinate
  - (i) the formulation, programming and implementation of social protection policies;
  - (ii) the planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of social protection interventions and social protection programmes;
  - (iii) the management information systems relevant for the implementation of social protection interventions and social protection programmes;
  - (iv) the identification and selection of beneficiaries for social protection programmes through a National Household Registry to improve targeting;

- (v) a case management system to respond to queries and grievances related to social protection; and
  - (vi) the implementation of the guidelines for monitoring and evaluation issued under paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section 5;
- (b) collaborate with appropriate authorities to establish and operationalise institutional structures for the delivery of social protection;
  - (c) ensure timely information and communication on social protection with stakeholders; and
  - (d) maintain a database on social protection service providers and programmes in the country.

**Collaboration with specialised agencies and flagship programmes**

8. The following agencies shall collaborate with the Ministry to deliver social protection interventions:

- (a) a specialised agency set out in the First Schedule; and
- (b) an agency responsible for a flagship social protection programme specified in Part B of the Second Schedule.

**Collaboration with oversight institutions for local authorities**

9. The Ministry shall collaborate with the Ministry responsible for Local Government and the Office of the Head of Local Government Service to

- (a) ensure the dissemination of social protection related information to District Assemblies;
- (b) ensure the effective implementation of social protection programmes in District Assemblies;
- (c) facilitate mainstreaming of social protection in the programming, planning and budget prioritisation of District Assemblies;
- (d) promote provision of relevant social services and infrastructure by District Assemblies;
- (e) collate relevant data on issues concerned with social protection at the local level; and

- (f) oversee the implementation of pro-poor programmes by District Assemblies.

*National Household Registry*

**Establishment of National Household Registry**

10. The Ministry shall establish a National Household Registry as a unit under the Research, Statistics and Information Management Directorate of the Ministry.

**Functions of the National Household Registry**

11. The National Household Registry shall perform the following functions:

- (a) collect and maintain relevant data on
  - (i) non-poor,
  - (ii) poor, and
  - (iii) vulnerable individuals and households;
- (b) categorise the data collected under paragraph (a) for the purpose of targeting beneficiaries for social protection interventions;
- (c) update the data collected under paragraph (a) every five years in consonance with the Ghana Living Standards Survey data and other relevant indicators;
- (d) establish mechanisms to facilitate co-ordination and data-sharing protocols with relevant programmes, institutions and individuals in data management and utilisation in accordance with enactments on data protection; and
- (e) agree on data-sharing protocols with relevant agencies and programmes to facilitate emergency responses.

*Targeting of Beneficiaries*

**Targeting of beneficiaries for social protection interventions**

12. (1) A social protection intervention or a social protection programme shall identify beneficiaries from the database of the National Household Registry.

(2) Where the data from the National Household Registry is not readily available, a social protection intervention or a social protection programme may collaborate with the National Household Registry to collect the data.

(3) The selection of beneficiaries for a social protection intervention or social protection programme is subject to the eligibility criteria of the particular social protection intervention or social protection programme.

### **Community targeting**

13. The selection of communities for a social protection intervention or a social protection programme shall be guided by the National Household Registry and statistics published by the Ghana Statistical Service or any other statutory body.

### *Social Protection Interventions*

### **Establishment of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Management Unit**

14. (1) There is established by this Act, a Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Management Unit under the Ministry.

(2) The Minister shall ensure the effective management of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Management Unit.

### **Functions of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Management Unit**

15. The functions of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Management Unit are to

- (a) manage cash transfer programmes;
- (b) develop and implement
  - (i) programme of activities,
  - (ii) annual work plans, and
  - (iii) budgetsof the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme;
- (c) coordinate and manage targeting, enrolment onto the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme and payment processes;



- (d) operate claims and grievance-resolution processes in accordance with the case-management system provided for in section 62;
- (e) undertake internal monitoring and evaluation of cash transfer programmes at regional, district and community levels;
- (f) provide timely and consistent communication on social protection to all stakeholders to facilitate social accountability;
- (g) develop relevant manuals, guidelines and materials to support the activities in paragraphs (a) to (f);
- (h) build the capacities of district officials for the implementation of cash transfer programmes at the district and community levels; and
- (i) perform any other function related to the management of cash transfers.

**Beneficiary identification and re-assessment**

16. (1) The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Management Unit of the Ministry shall issue guidelines for

- (a) beneficiary identification; and
- (b) receipt of cash transfers.

(2) The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Management Unit shall re-assess the eligibility status of beneficiaries of each cash transfer programme based on the programme design.

**Social protection support**

17. The Ministry shall collaborate with designated Ministries, Departments, Agencies and other entities to provide social protection support through

- (a) social assistance;
- (b) productive and financial inclusion;
- (c) emergency assistance;
- (d) social protection through social insurance; and
- (e) complementary social services and social development interventions.

**Social assistance**

18. The Ministry shall collaborate with designated Ministries, Departments, Agencies and other entities to provide support to the persons specified in section 1 in the form of

- (a) monetary assistance including cash transfers; and
- (b) non-monetary assistance including in-kind support, fee waivers, and subsidies to enhance access to social services.

**Cash transfers**

19. The Ministry shall, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, provide regular cash transfers to the persons specified in section 1 through cash transfer programmes.

**Abuse of cash transfer**

20. (1) A person shall not abuse a cash transfer programme.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, a person abuses a cash transfer programme if the person

- (a) provides false information to receive a social cash grant;
- (b) being a caregiver,
  - (i) receives cash on behalf of someone knowing that the person is no longer eligible to receive the cash transfer;
  - (ii) collects funds of a beneficiary who is deceased;
  - (iii) refuses to remit the funds due an eligible person; or
  - (iv) collects funds on behalf of a person who has permanently relocated outside the country; or
- (c) being a service provider, official or representative of a financial institution or implementing agency knowingly
  - (i) underpays, overpays or withholds payment to an eligible beneficiary;
  - (ii) denies in any other way an eligible beneficiary of the entitlement of the beneficiary without reasonable cause; or
  - (iii) makes payment to an ineligible person.

**Termination of cash transfer**

21. The appropriate authority may terminate a cash transfer to a beneficiary where

- (a) the cash transfer was obtained through misrepresentation, deceit, fraud or failure to disclose information;
- (b) the cash transfer was approved or paid in error; or
- (c) the circumstances of the beneficiary has changed and the beneficiary is no longer eligible for the cash transfer.

**Suspension of cash transfer**

22. (1) The appropriate authority may suspend payment of cash transfers to, or on behalf of a person who does not access the funds for a continuous period of six months.

(2) The appropriate authority may reinstate the payment of the cash transfer where the appropriate authority is satisfied that the reasons proffered by the applicant justify a reinstatement of the cash transfer.

**Refund of cash transfer**

23. (1) Where the appropriate authority makes payment to a person who is not entitled to the cash transfer, the amount paid in error constitutes an amount due to the State and shall be repaid by that person or, if the person is deceased, by the estate of the person.

(2) The appropriate authority shall recover the amount to which a person was not entitled.

(3) A public officer who knowingly pays a cash transfer in excess of the permitted amount shall be surcharged for the loss.

**Productive and financial inclusion**

24. (1) The Ministry shall, in collaboration with relevant bodies, facilitate the provision of productive and financial inclusion to persons categorised as vulnerable in the second column of the Third Schedule.

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), the Ministry shall collaborate with

- (a) the Specialised Agencies referred to in the First Schedule to implement active labour market initiatives;

- (b) the Ministry responsible for Employment and Labour Relations to implement employment support initiatives such as job-search processes and access to employment-related interventions;
- (c) the National Insurance Commission, Social Security and National Insurance Trust and other relevant agencies and organisations to build the capacities of persons on financial inclusion and productive investments, where necessary;
- (d) other Ministries, Departments and Agencies and relevant non-state partners to provide support to the vulnerable persons specified in the Third Schedule for access to resources and information; and
- (e) designated state agencies and non-state institutions to facilitate the provision of start-up capital to support the vulnerable persons specified in the second column of the Third Schedule who have successfully completed skills acquisition programmes.

(3) The Ministry shall collaborate with the Ministry responsible for Food and Agriculture to

- (a) enhance the livelihoods of farmers through other social protection interventions;
- (b) provide agricultural inputs for poor farmers; and
- (c) enhance access of vulnerable youth and women to agricultural programmes.

(4) The Ministry responsible for Employment and Labor Relations shall ensure that provisions for decent work outlined in the Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651) including

- (a) maternity protection,
- (b) employment of persons with disabilities, young persons and women; and
- (c) occupational health and safety

are extended to the qualified persons specified in section 1.

**Social protection through social insurance**

25. (1) The Ministry shall collaborate with relevant agencies and organisations to develop and administer social insurance schemes designed to meet the needs of the persons specified in section 1 in accordance with relevant enactments.

(2) The Ministry shall collaborate with the National Insurance Commission, Social Security and National Insurance Trust and other relevant agencies and organisations in the implementation of mandatory and voluntary social insurance schemes in respect of the following activities:

- (a) sensitisation and education of the public on mandatory and voluntary social insurance schemes;
- (b) identification of strategies to promote participation by workers in the informal sector;
- (c) provision of relevant data on potential contributors from the Ghana National Household Registry and flagship social protection programmes;
- (d) registration of indigent categories onto the National Health Insurance Scheme in collaboration with the National Health Insurance Authority;
- (e) identification of mechanisms to strengthen voluntary insurance schemes; and
- (f) provision of technical support for the development and monitoring of a regulatory framework to protect the interests of persons specified in section 1 in accessing insurance services.

**Emergency assistance and relief**

26. (1) The Ministry shall in collaboration with relevant agencies, identify and implement social assistance, productive inclusion and social insurance interventions in the event of emergencies.

(2) The Ministry shall collaborate with the National Disaster Management Organisation, relevant district assemblies and authorities, international partners, National Council of Persons with Disability and benevolent private contributors where appropriate, to complement national emergency relief efforts for the affected persons specified in section 1.



(3) In the event of a declaration of a national or localised emergency by the appropriate authority, the Ministry shall as far as possible, provide complementary support in the form of basic welfare needs including food aid, shelter, supply of goods and services for the affected persons specified in section 1 to ensure relief.

(4) For the purpose of subsection (3), the Ministry shall develop an eligibility criteria to identify persons to benefit from the interventions to respond to the emergency.

(5) Where appropriate, the Ministry may recommend persons benefiting from an emergency intervention to be enrolled onto other social protection interventions for a long term support.

### **Ghana School Feeding Programme**

27. (1) The Ministry shall ensure the implementation and effective management of the Ghana School Feeding Programme.

- (2) For the purpose of subsection (1), the Ministry shall
- (a) provide guidelines and set technical standards for the implementation of the Ghana School Feeding Programme;
  - (b) strengthen the involvement of farmers in the Ghana School Feeding Programme to increase domestic food production and consumption;
  - (c) collaborate with district assemblies for the effective implementation of the Ghana School Feeding Programme;
  - (d) collaborate with caterers to provide school feeding services to public schools; and
  - (e) perform any other activity necessary for the implementation and management of the Ghana School Feeding Programme.

### *Complementary Social Services and Social Protection Interventions*

#### **Education interventions**

28. (1) The Ministry shall, in collaboration with the Ministry responsible for Education, ensure that

- (a) social protection programmes are linked to school enrolment;

- (b) nutrition support programmes are effectively implemented in schools in vulnerable communities;
- (c) children from chronically poor homes and communities are enrolled in child benefit schemes; and
- (d) a national school enrolment database is formulated and integrated with the National Household Registry.

(2) The Ministry shall, in collaboration with the Ministry responsible for Education, provide quality assurance and facilitate the implementation of flagship social protection programmes related to education.

### **Health interventions**

29. (1) The Ministry shall, in collaboration with the Ministry responsible for Health

- (a) ensure that health sector initiatives in nutrition and other social protection related interventions are undertaken to improve the well-being of the persons specified in section 1;
- (b) address health deficiencies relating to poverty or environmental factors;
- (c) promote good nutrition, food safety and hygiene in schools and communities through the use of approved education materials from the Ministry responsible for Health;
- (d) promote the use of school meal plans in schools to ensure adequate and safe meals; and
- (e) ensure quality assurance of the interventions in paragraphs (a) to (d).

(2) The Ministry shall collaborate with the Ministry responsible for Health on the registration of indigents under the National Health Insurance Scheme.

### **Other social assistance interventions**

30. Ministries, Departments and Agencies may provide other social assistance including psychosocial support for the persons specified in section 1 in collaboration with the Ministry.

**Confidentiality and protection of personal information of beneficiaries**

31. A person shall not divulge any information provided by a beneficiary of a social protection intervention or social protection programme except

- (a) to a person who requires the information in order to perform an official function;
- (b) the person is required to do so by law, or by an order of court; or
- (c) with the consent of the beneficiary of the social protection intervention or social protection programme.

*Funding for Social Protection*

**Role of the Ministry responsible for Finance**

32. (1) The Ministry responsible for Finance shall

- (a) collaborate with the Ministry to ascertain the priority funding needs of social protection interventions before preparation of the national budget for the ensuing year;
- (b) make specific allocation for social protection interventions and the Social Protection Fund;
- (c) recommend tax exemptions or rebates for private sector organisations that contribute
  - (i) to the implementation of social protection interventions; or
  - (ii) towards the Social Protection Fund;
- (d) recommend relevant financial institutions to provide micro-credit facilities to economically at-risk persons;
- (e) ensure consistency between social protection policy and financing;
- (f) oversee the financial linkages among the social protection programmes undertaken under this Act to ensure synergies, value for money and the elimination of duplication and wastage in the funding of social protection programmes;
- (g) ensure reliable financing of the non-contributory social protection programme, in accordance with applicable legislation; and

- (h) review cash transfer sizes annually to reflect changing economic circumstances and revise as appropriate, in consultation with the Ministry.

(2) For the purpose of paragraph (c) of subsection (1), the Ministry responsible for Finance in collaboration with the Ministry shall determine the threshold for the qualification for a tax exemption or rebate.

*Social Protection Fund*

**Establishment of a Social Protection Fund**

**33.** There is established by this Act a Social Protection Fund.

**Object of the Fund**

**34.** (1) The object of the Fund is to

- (a) provide financial resources to develop, coordinate and implement social protection initiatives and other related activities, including emergency assistance and relief;
- (b) provide financial resources for the management of emergency situations; and
- (c) mobilise funds for social protection delivery.

(2) To achieve the object of the Fund, the moneys from the Fund shall be applied to the following activities:

- (a) the implementation of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme;
- (b) emergency cash transfer to persons affected by local and national emergencies; and
- (c) any other activity for the effective and efficient fulfilment of the object of the Fund.

**Sources of money for the Fund**

**35.** The sources of money for the Fund are

- (a) moneys approved by Parliament;
- (b) grants, donations and other voluntary contributions; and
- (c) other moneys that may become lawfully payable to the Fund.



**Bank account for the Fund**

36. Moneys for the Fund shall be paid into a bank account opened for the purpose by the Minister responsible for Gender, Children and Social Protection with the approval of the Controller and Accountant-General.

**Management of the Fund**

37. (1) The National Social Protection Committee established under section 40 shall be responsible for the management of the Fund.

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), the National Social Protection Committee shall

- (a) pursue policies to achieve the object of the Fund;
- (b) develop guidelines for the disbursement and utilisation of the moneys in the Fund;
- (c) review the annual social protection interventions submitted by the public and private sector agencies for funding;
- (d) monitor and evaluate programmes and interventions to which moneys from the Fund have been applied; and
- (e) invest some of the moneys of the Fund in safe securities for the benefit of the Fund, with the approval of the Minister responsible for Finance.

(3) In furtherance of the management of the Fund, the National Social Protection Committee shall

- (a) arrange for the effective and efficient collection of moneys assigned to the Fund;
- (b) raise funds for the Fund; and
- (c) formulate funding strategies for the Fund.

**Accounts and audit**

38. (1) The National Social Protection Committee shall keep books, records, returns and other documents relevant to the accounts in the form approved by the Auditor-General.

(2) The National Social Protection Committee shall submit the accounts of the Fund to the Auditor-General for audit at the end of the financial year.



(3) The Auditor-General shall, within six months after the end of the immediately preceding financial year, audit the accounts, submit the report to Parliament and forward a copy each of the audit report to the Minister and the National Social Protection Committee.

(4) The financial year of the Fund is the same as the financial year of the Government.

**Annual report and other reports**

39. (1) The National Social Protection Committee shall, within thirty days after receipt of the audit report, submit an annual report to the Minister, covering the activities and operations of the Fund for the year to which the report relates.

(2) The annual report shall include

- (a) the report of the Auditor-General;
- (b) an assessment of the targets of the National Social Protection Committee;
- (c) a summary of the challenges and feedback from stakeholders; and
- (d) recommendations to improve on the efficient and effective performance of the National Social Protection Committee.

(3) The Minister shall, within thirty days after the receipt of the annual report, submit the report to Parliament with a statement that the Minister considers necessary.

(4) The National Social Protection Committee shall submit to the Minister any other report which the Minister may require in writing.

*National Social Protection Committee*

**Establishment of the National Social Protection Committee**

40. For the effective and efficient implementation of this Act, there is established the National Social Protection Committee.

**Composition of the National Social Protection Committee**

41. (1) The National Social Protection Committee consists of

- (a) the chairperson who is a representative of the Minister;
- (b) a representative each of the following Ministries, not below the rank of a Director
  - (i) Finance;

- (ii) Health;
  - (iii) Food and Agriculture;
  - (iv) Employment and Labour Relations;
  - (v) Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development;
  - (vi) Education;
  - (vii) the Interior; and
  - (viii) Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs;
- (c) a representative from the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice, not below the rank of Chief State Attorney;
- (d) two representatives from Civil Society Organisations on Social Protection; and
- (e) two representatives from the Office of the President.

(2) The Director of the Social Protection Directorate shall serve as the Secretary to the Committee.

(3) The Minister shall appoint the members of the Social Protection Committee.

### **Functions of the National Social Protection Committee**

42. (1) The Committee shall provide strategic oversight responsibility for the coordination and delivery of social protection in the country.

(2) The Committee shall, in providing strategic oversight responsibility under subsection (1),

- (a) review and recommend for approval the harmonised annual plans for social protection submitted by collaborating Ministries, Departments, Agencies and partners;
- (b) periodically review targets for social protection within the context of the National Development Policy Framework;
- (c) review and recommend for approval the monitoring and evaluation framework for social protection and ensure compliance by social protection programmes;
- (d) approve the implementation of new social protection programmes;

- (e) ensure timely submission of periodic reports on social protection programmes;
- (f) make proposals to ensure adequate and sustainable funding for social protection programmes; and
- (g) promote intersectoral advocacy and joint communication on social protection issues.

### **Tenure of office of members of the National Social Protection Committee**

43. (1) A member of the Committee shall hold office for a period of three years and is eligible for re-appointment.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person who is a member of the Committee by virtue of office.

(3) A member of the Committee may, at any time, resign from office in writing addressed to the Minister.

(4) A member of the Committee who is absent from three consecutive meetings without sufficient cause ceases to be a member of the Committee.

(5) The Minister may, by letter addressed to a member revoke the appointment of that member.

(6) Where a member of the Committee is, for sufficient reason, unable to act as a member, the Minister shall determine whether the inability would result in the declaration of a vacancy.

(7) Where there is a vacancy

(a) under subsection (3), (4), (5) or subsection (2) of section 45;

(b) as a result of a declaration under subsection (6); or

(c) by reason of the death of a member,

the Minister shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy.

### **Meetings of the National Social Protection Committee**

44. (1) The National Social Protection Committee shall meet at least once every three months at a time and place determined by the chairperson.



(2) The chairperson shall, at the request in writing of not less than one-third of the membership of the National Social Protection Committee, convene an extraordinary meeting of the National Social Protection Committee, at a time and place determined by the chairperson.

(3) The chairperson shall preside at meetings of the National Social Protection Committee and in the absence of the chairperson, a member of the National Social Protection Committee elected by the members present from among their number shall preside.

(4) The quorum at a meeting of the National Social Protection Committee is seven members of the National Social Protection Committee.

(5) Matters before the National Social Protection Committee shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting and in the event of an equality of votes, the person presiding shall have a casting vote.

(6) The National Social Protection Committee may co-opt a person to attend a meeting of the Committee, but that person shall not vote on any matter for decision at the meeting.

(7) The proceedings of the National Social Protection Committee shall not be invalidated by reason of a vacancy among the members or a defect in the appointment or qualification of a member.

(8) Subject to this section, the National Social Protection Committee shall determine the procedure for the meetings of the Committee.

#### **Disclosure of interest**

**45.** (1) A member of the National Social Protection Committee who has an interest in a matter for consideration by the Committee shall

- (a) disclose in writing the nature of that interest and the disclosure shall form part of the record of the consideration of the matter; and
- (b) not participate in the deliberations of the National Social Protection Committee in respect of that matter.

(2) Where a member contravenes subsection (1), the chairperson shall notify the Minister who shall inform the President in writing to revoke the appointment of that member.

(3) Without limiting any further cause of action that may be instituted against the member, the National Social Protection Committee shall recover the benefit derived by a member who contravenes subsection (1) in addition to the revocation of the appointment of the member.

*Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee*

**Establishment of the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee**

**46.** There is established by this Act a Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee.

**Composition of the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee**

**47.** (1) The Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee consists of

- (a) the Chief Director of the Ministry as chairperson;
- (b) the Director of the Social Protection Directorate;
- (c) the Director of Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate of the Ministry;
- (d) the Director of Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate of each of the following Ministries:
  - (i) the Ministry responsible for Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development;
  - (ii) the Ministry responsible for Health;
  - (iii) the Ministry responsible for Food and Agriculture;
  - (iv) the Ministry responsible for Education; and
  - (v) the Ministry responsible for Employment and Labour Relations;
- (e) the Director of Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate of the Office of the Head of Local Government Service;



- (f) a representative of the National Development Planning Commission not below the rank of a Deputy Director nominated by the National Development Planning Commission;
- (g) a representative of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice not below the rank of a Deputy Director nominated by the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice;
- (h) a representative from academia with requisite skills and expertise in social protection;
- (i) a representative of the National Council of Persons with Disability nominated by the National Council of Persons with Disability;
- (j) the Deputy Director of the Department of Social Welfare;
- (k) the Deputy Director of the Department of Children;
- (l) the Deputy Director of the Department of Gender;
- (m) a representative of civil society with expertise in social protection;
- (n) a representative each of the six flagship social protection programmes specified in the Second Schedule of a rank equivalent to Deputy Director; and
- (o) six representatives, not below the rank of Deputy Director or equivalent to Deputy Director, nominated by the following persons in relevant institutions in the delivery of social protection:
  - (i) the Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Insurance Authority;
  - (ii) the Chief Executive Officer of the National Pensions Regulatory Authority;
  - (iii) the Head, Office of the Head of Local Government Service;
  - (iv) the Head, Office of the Head of Civil Service;
  - (v) the Director-General, National Development Planning Commission; and

(vi) the Director-General, National Disaster Management Organisation.

(2) The Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee may co-opt a person to attend a meeting of the Council, but that person shall not vote on a matter for decision at the meeting.

(3) The Minister shall appoint the members of the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee.

**Functions of the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee**

48. (1) The Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee shall

- (a) integrate and harmonise social protection policy initiatives, programmes, plans and budgets from Ministries, Departments and Agencies for the consideration of the National Social Protection Committee;
- (b) implement the decisions of the National Social Protection Committee;
- (c) establish guidelines, standards and procedures for the development and implementation of social protection interventions and social protection programmes;
- (d) prepare policy options for the consideration of the National Social Protection Committee;
- (e) review proposals for new social protection interventions and social protection programmes for the consideration of the National Social Protection Committee;
- (f) review and validate joint sector work plans and annual and bi-annual reports for approval by the National Social Protection Committee;
- (g) conduct research and information gathering on social protection;
- (h) disseminate the annual national social protection report prepared by the Ministry; and
- (i) perform any other function for social protection determined by the National Social Protection Committee.

(2) The Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee may establish sub-committees to assist in the performance of functions of the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee.

**Meetings of the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee and disclosure of interest**

49. (1) Section 44 on meetings of the National Social Protection Committee apply with the necessary modification to the Social Protection Intersectoral Technical Committee.

(2) For purposes of subsection (1), the quorum at a meeting of the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee is thirteen.

(3) Section 45 on disclosure of interest apply to a member of the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee.

**Secretariat of the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee**

50. The Social Protection Directorate is the Secretariat for the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee.

*Coordination and Monitoring of Social Protection at the Decentralised Level*

**Function of the Inter-Ministerial Co-ordinating Committee**

51. The Inter-Ministerial Co-ordinating Committee established in section 204 of the Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936) shall ensure that social protection is mainstreamed and integrated into the plans and budgets of the Regional Coordinating Councils and District Assemblies.

**Functions of the Regional Co-ordinating Council in delivery of social protection**

52. The Office of the Regional Co-ordinating Council referred to under section 192 of the Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936) shall

- (a) monitor the implementation of social protection interventions and social protection programmes in the District Assemblies;
- (b) conduct spot checks on social protection interventions and social protection programmes in the District Assemblies;
- (c) provide technical assistance for social protection interventions and social protection programmes required in the District Assemblies;

- (d) prepare and submit annual reports on the monitoring of social protection to the Minister through the Minister responsible for Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development;
- (e) mainstream and integrate social protection into the plans and budgets of the Regional Coordinating Councils and District Assemblies; and
- (f) perform any other function necessary for the efficient and effective delivery of social protection.

### **Establishment of District Social Protection Implementation Teams**

**53.** (1) A District Assembly shall establish a District Social Protection Implementation Team to support the implementation, coordination and monitoring of social protection interventions and social protection programmes at the district and sub-district levels.

(2) The District Social Protection Implementation Team shall operate under the supervision of the District Planning Co-ordinating Unit.

(3) The District Planning Co-ordinating Unit shall ensure the integration of social protection into the

- (a) medium-term development plans,
- (b) annual operational plans, and
- (c) budgets

of the District Assembly.

### **Composition of the District Social Protection Implementation Team**

**54.** (1) The District Social Protection Implementation Team consists of the following:

- (a) the District Co-ordinating Director as chairperson;
- (b) the Head of the District Social Development Office;
- (c) the chairperson of the Social Services Sub-Committee of the District Assembly;
- (d) one other member of the Social Services Sub-Committee of the District Assembly, nominated by members of the Social Services Sub-Committee from among their number;

- (e) the District Planning Officer;
- (f) the District Director of Health Services;
- (g) the District Director of Agriculture;
- (h) the District Director of Education;
- (i) the District Statistical Officer;
- (j) the District National Disaster Management Officer;
- (k) the District Health Insurance Scheme Manager; and
- (l) the focal person on issues of disability.

(2) The District Chief Executive shall appoint the members of the District Social Protection Implementation Team.

(3) The District Social Protection Implementation Team may co-opt a person to attend a meeting of the Council, but that person shall not vote on a matter for decision at the meeting.

(4) The District Social Protection Implementation Team may, on the recommendation of the Secretariat, engage the services of consultants and experts for the efficient and effective performance of the functions of the District Social Protection Implementation Team.

### **Functions of the District Social Protection Implementation Team**

55. The District Social Protection Implementation Team shall

- (a) provide a mechanism for harmonising social protection related initiatives, including initiatives provided by civil society organisations and private sector interventions, in the District;
- (b) ensure adequate information-sharing relating to social protection interventions and social protection programmes;
- (c) ensure linkages between social protection interventions and social protection programmes and the planning, budgeting, monitoring and other processes in the District;
- (d) consolidate the work of committees on social protection related programmes in the district;
- (e) promote stakeholder engagement on social protection delivery; and



- (f) provide support for community level implementation, coordination and monitoring activities as follows:
- (i) organise training and capacity building for district and sub-district functionaries and community-level actors;
  - (ii) report on social protection activities at the sub-district and community levels;
  - (iii) organise periodic stakeholder meetings to facilitate information-sharing and joint programme review;
  - (iv) promote referral of beneficiaries of social protection interventions and social protection programmes to complementary social services in the district;
  - (v) support needs identification and targeting for social protection in the district;
  - (vi) support and facilitate the resolution of social protection related grievances in the district in a timeous manner;
  - (vii) support the formation and functioning of beneficiary welfare associations in the district; and
  - (viii) perform any other function necessary for the promotion of social protection in the district.

#### **Meetings and disclosure of interest**

56. Section 44 on meetings of the National Social Protection Committee and section 45 on disclosure of interest by a member of the National Social Protection Committee apply with the necessary modification, to the District Social Protection Implementation Team.

#### **Secretary to the District Social Protection Implementation Team**

57. The Head of the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development is the Secretary to the District Social Protection Implementation Team.

#### **Functions of the Secretary to the District Social Protection Implementation Team**

58. The Secretary shall

- (a) coordinate resolutions of grievances and referral processes on matters of social protection;

- (b) provide referrals to other complementary services;
- (c) facilitate opportunities for the persons specified in section 1 to pursue sustainable livelihoods through linkages with labour market programmes;
- (d) move beneficiaries into productive and gainful employment;
- (e) work with District Assemblies to undertake community sensitisation and public hearings as appropriate; and
- (f) report on social protection to the Social Services Sub-Committee of the District Assembly.

### **Community Facilitators**

59. (1) A District Assembly shall, through the District Social Protection Implementation Team, engage Community Facilitators from each community in the District.

(2) A Community Facilitator shall act as a liaison between the District Assembly and the community.

(3) A District Assembly shall, in engaging Community Facilitators, give priority to females to ensure gender inclusion and female participation.

(4) A Community Facilitator shall serve on the terms and conditions specified in the letter of engagement.

### **Qualification for Community Facilitator**

60. A person is qualified to be engaged as a Community Facilitator if the person

- (a) possesses a West African Senior School Certificate or an equivalent;
- (b) is proficient in reading and writing the English language;
- (c) is able to communicate effectively in the local language of the community;
- (d) is resident and known in the community;
- (e) is a person of high moral character and integrity; and
- (f) does not involve in partisan politics.

### **Functions of Community Facilitator**

61. A Community Facilitator shall

- (a) facilitate the mobilisation and sensitisation of the community for social protection interventions and social protection programmes;

- (b) facilitate the selection and enrolment of beneficiaries in social protection interventions and social protection programmes;
- (c) monitor training programmes in the community;
- (d) monitor the performance beneficiaries;
- (e) facilitate linkages and referrals to complementary social services;
- (f) facilitate the resolution of grievances related to the implementation of social protection interventions and social protection programmes;
- (g) monitor co-responsibility compliance by beneficiary households;
- (h) promote transparency and social accountability in social protection delivery in the community;
- (i) facilitate discussion on social issues that affect the community;
- (j) identify and promote the traditional forms of social protection in the community; and
- (k) perform any other function assigned the Community Facilitator by the District Social Protection Implementation Team.

*Grievances, Appeals and Case Management System*

**Complaints mechanism and case management**

62. (1) The operational manual of a social protection programme shall incorporate a

- (a) complaint mechanism, which includes information on the procedure for lodging complaints, queries or grievances on social protection; and
- (b) case management mechanism, which includes specification on timelines for feedback on and redress of complaints, queries or grievances on social protection.

(2) The Head of the Single Window Citizens Engagement Services shall link case management mechanism for a social protection programme to a unified social protection case management system.

(3) A unified social protection case management system shall complement case management processes of social protection interventions and social protection programmes.

#### **Establishment of Unified Social Protection Case Management System**

**63.** (1) The Ministry shall establish a Unified Social Protection Case Management System to integrate cases and grievances from all social protection programmes and interventions.

(2) The Unified Social Protection Case Management System is a central facility equipped to track and ensure timeous redress and feedback to complaints of beneficiaries and stakeholders about the quality of service delivery and other queries on social protection.

(3) Where a person makes a complaint to a social protection programme, the social protection programme shall

(a) inform the Unified Social Protection Case Management System of the complaint; and

(b) outline steps for resolution of the complaint.

(4) The Unified Social Protection Case Management System shall, in writing, authorise the social protection programme to which the complaint was made to resolve the complaint in accordance with the case management procedure of the social protection programme.

(5) The Unified Social Protection Case Management System shall monitor the resolution of all complaints.

(6) The operational manual of the Unified Social Protection Case Management System shall specify timelines for

(a) resolution of the complaint; and

(b) feedback on the complaint to the

(i) complainant; and

(ii) Unified Social Protection Case Management System.

#### **Complaints**

**64.** (1) A person may submit a complaint to the Unified Social Protection Case Management System.



(2) A complaint submitted under subsection (1) shall be channeled through

- (a) a Help-Line provided by the Ministry; and
- (b) any other channel approved by the Ministry including
  - (i) toll-free numbers;
  - (ii) electronic platforms; and
  - (iii) in-person reporting.

**Levels and processes of complaints resolution**

65. (1) A complainant who is not satisfied with the resolution of a complaint involving a social protection programme shall appeal through the Unified Social Protection Case Management System to the Head of the Single Window Citizens Engagement Services.

(2) Where an appeal is made under subsection (1) and the complainant is not satisfied with the resolution of the appeal, the complainant may appeal to the Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee.

(3) The Social Protection Inter-Sectoral Technical Committee shall, within seven days, conduct further investigation into the appeal.

(4) Where an appeal involves an officer or an agent involved in the implementation of a social protection intervention or social protection programme, the complainant may appeal to the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice.

(5) Where the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of an appeal under

- (a) subsections (1), (2) and (3), the complainant may appeal to the Minister, who shall engage the sector Minister concerned for the resolution of the complaint; or
- (b) subsection (4), the complainant may seek redress in court.

(6) An appeal to the Minister or to the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice shall be accompanied with

- (a) the complaint and the resolution of the complaint appealed against; and
- (b) any other information the Minister or the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice may request.

*Miscellaneous Provisions*

**Conflict of interest**

66. (1) A public officer shall not act in a manner or assume a position in which the duty of the public officer under this Act conflicts or may conflict with the personal interest of the public officer.

(2) For the purpose of this Act, a public officer is considered to be in a conflict of interest situation if the public officer acquires a pecuniary interest or any other interest in the performance of the duty of the public officer.

(3) For the purpose of this Act, a public officer who has an interest in a matter in the performance of a duty shall

- (a) in writing, disclose the nature of the interest to the Chief Director of the Ministry at which the public officer works; and
- (b) not participate in the consideration or determination of the matter.

(4) Where the public officer under subsection (3) is a Chief Director, the Chief Director shall

- (a) in writing, disclose the nature of the interest to the Minister; and
- (b) not participate in the consideration or determination of the matter.

(5) Where the Ministry becomes aware that a public officer under the Ministry has an interest in a matter before the Ministry, the Chief Director shall, in consultation with the Minister, make a determination as to whether in future, the interest is likely to interfere significantly with a social protection programme.

(6) Where the Ministry determines that the interest of a public officer is likely to interfere significantly with a social protection programme, the Ministry shall direct the public officer not to participate in the determination of the matter in respect of the social protection programme.

(7) For the purpose of subsection (5), the Minister shall make a determination as to whether in future the interest is likely to interfere significantly with a social protection programme.

### **Offences**

**67.** (1) A person shall not, for the purpose of or in connection with a claim for social assistance for the benefit of that person or another person, knowingly

- (a) make a false or misleading statement;
- (b) make a false representation;
- (c) fail to disclose a material fact; or
- (d) induce or attempt to induce an authorised person.

(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than one hundred penalty units and not more than two hundred penalty units or to a term of imprisonment of not less than six months and not more than twelve months or to both.

(3) A person who

- (a) abuses a cash transfer programme under section 20; or
- (b) contravenes section 31

commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than one hundred penalty units and not more than two hundred penalty units or to a term of imprisonment of not less than six months and not more than twelve months or to both.

### **Guidelines**

**68.** The Minister shall, in collaboration with the Minister responsible for Finance, develop guidelines to index the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty grant payment to inflation.

### **Regulations**

**69.** The Minister may, by legislative instrument, make Regulations

- (a) to prescribe the procedure for the grant of social assistance;
- (b) to provide for investigation of applicants for eligibility for social protection interventions and social protection programmes;
- (c) for the effective management of the Social Protection Fund;
- (d) to provide for social assistance;
- (e) for the operation of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme;

- (f) for the operation of the National Household Registry;
- (g) for the effective implementation of productive inclusion, social insurance and emergency response interventions;
- (h) to prescribe procedures for annual emergency risk assessments, response and mitigation strategies for persons specified under paragraph (d) of section 1;
- (i) to specify the vulnerabilities, modalities and type of assistance, information management and social support interventions for persons specified under section 1;
- (j) to amend the
  - (i) First Schedule in respect of the specialised agencies and role in social protection;
  - (ii) Second Schedule in respect of the flagship social protection programmes; and
  - (iii) Third Schedule in respect of the criteria for social assistance; and
- (k) for the effective and efficient implementation of this Act.

### **Interpretation**

**70.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

“active labour market initiatives” means an aspect of social protection that promotes participation and employment opportunities among vulnerable groups;

“administrative officer” means an officer involved in the implementation of a social protection programme;

“basic public goods and services” mean commodities and services that are available to all members of society;

“beneficiary household” means a household that, by virtue of extreme poverty or other eligible criteria, receives a benefit or service from a social protection programme or intervention specified in this Act;

“caregiver” means a person who has responsibility of primary and direct care for an applicant;



- “case-management system” means the system through which all complaints and grievances with respect to the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme are reported and addressed;
- “cash transfer” means a direct transfer of money from public funds to an eligible person or a household that may be
- (a) unconditional or conditional; and
  - (b) provided by an organisation funded by
    - (i) private donors; or
    - (ii) a local or regional government;
- “child benefit scheme” means tax-free social assistance payment, support arrangement or a related aid that is made, based on an established eligibility criteria, to a parent or a guardian of a child below the age of sixteen years for the benefit of the child;
- “chronically poor” means an individual, household, group or community that is in a state of extreme poverty and is likely to be in the state of extreme poverty over a period of time;
- “collaboration” refers to efforts by the Ministry to align programmes and interventions with other relevant ministries, departments and agencies to implement the social protection programmes to provide an initial relief for beneficiaries;
- “Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice” means the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice established under Article 216 of the Constitution;
- “community-level actors” include assembly members, unit committees, traditional authorities, opinion leaders, community leaders and members of civil society organisations;
- “complementary social services” mean any Government service or intervention such as education and health that a beneficiary of a social protection intervention also benefits from or is linked to;
- “co-responsibility compliance” means the mutual understanding between the manager of a social protection programme and

a beneficiary of a social protection programme that is in return for an entitlement to the beneficiary, who shall

- (a) undertake some obligations to improve the situation of the beneficiary; and
- (b) failure of the beneficiary to undertake the obligations could lead to the
  - (i) deprivation of the beneficiary of the benefits of the social protection programme; or
  - (ii) removal of the beneficiary from the social protection programme;

“court” means a court of competent jurisdiction;

“decent work” means a job that pays a fair income, guarantees a secure form of employment and safe working conditions;

“development partner” includes a governmental organisation and a non-governmental organisation that has development as the core function;

“disaggregated data” means the numerical or non-numerical information that has been broken down in component parts or smaller units of data for further analysis;

“district” includes a metropolis and a municipality;

“District Assembly” includes a Metropolitan Assembly and a Municipal Assembly;

“economically-at-risk” means an individual, a household, or a group or community whose work or income is unstable;

“eligible person” means a person referred to as an affected person in the Second column of the Third Schedule;

“emergency assistance” means

- (a) aid that is provided in a situation in which a person or a community is
  - (i) at risk of serious harm to health and safety; or
  - (ii) vulnerable if immediate support is not provided to the person or community; or
- (b) short-term assistance and includes equipment, materials, supplies, services and financial assistance to manage a distress situation;

- “extreme poverty” means the state where the standard of living is insufficient to meet the basic nutritional requirement of a household even if the household devotes the entire consumption budget to food;
- “flagship social protection programme” means the programmes listed under the Second Schedule;
- “food security” means having access to food that meets dietary requirements for all at all times;
- “Fund” refers to the Social Protection Fund established under section 33;
- “gender and disability responsiveness” means interventions that include actions to meet the specific needs of males and females and persons living with disability to reduce inequality;
- “household” means a composition of members of a common unit or a group of persons who
- (a) live together in the same house or compound;
  - (b) share the same housekeeping arrangements or common income and expenditure; or
  - (c) have a recognised head of household;
- may include relatives, housekeepers or caregivers;
- “improved targeting mechanism” means a system that identifies, prioritises and selects a household or a non-household to benefit from a social protection intervention as specified in section 1;
- “indigent categories” mean groups of persons that lack the essential package of goods and services that are considered as basic necessities of life and referred to in paragraph (e) of clause (2) of article 36 of Constitution of including water, basic sanitation, basic energy, health care, shelter, food and clothing of acceptable quality and in adequate quantities;
- “in-kind support” means non-cash contributions including services, supplies, equipment or space that are provided free of charge.
- “Minister” means the Minister responsible for Gender, Children and Social Protection;
- “Ministry” means the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection;



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- “National Development Policy Framework” means a structured set of policies and strategies designed to achieve specified national development goals;
- “National Household Registry” means the National Household Registry established under section 10;
- “non-contributory social protection programme” means assistance targeted at low-income groups that is fully paid for by the State or any other provider and may include
- (a) direct, regular and predictable cash transfers; or
  - (b) in-kind support
- to the persons specified under section 1;
- “Non-Governmental Organisation” means a civil society group or non-profit body of persons that is formed to pursue purposes that are lawful and that are not for profit but oriented towards public interest;
- “productive inclusion” means an intervention which seeks to
- (a) improve access by the poor to assets including land, equipment and human capital, information, credit and liquidity;
  - (b) enhance the capacity of the poor for risk management;
  - (c) build the confidence and capacity of the poor for integration in national systems; and
  - (d) enhance the future prospects of the poor;
- “pro-poor programme” means an approach to social protection with the aim to provide income security and access to social services particularly for the vulnerable who are poor in order to protect and empower the vulnerable;
- “productive and financial inclusion” means income-generating activity for sustainable livelihood, and access to credit or with bank account;
- “public officer” means a person who holds a public office;
- “psycho-social support” means the support given to a vulnerable person to enable the person meet the mental, emotional, social and spiritual needs of the person including clinical and psychological assistance in dealing with traumatic



- situations, reintegration efforts, coaching and occupational rehabilitation;
- “relevant stakeholders” include persons and institutions who work in the social protection domain;
- “resident” means a person who is not a citizen of Ghana but lives in Ghana;
- “risk” means the probability in a social setting of harmful consequences leading to losses of property, livelihoods or disruption in economic activity, death or injuries to a dependent;
- “school meal plan” means a framework, guideline, procedures, regulations, instructions, standards or directives to create nutritionally balanced meals in the right quantities taking into consideration the age and nutritional need or target;
- “serious harm” means any serious bodily hurt, disease, or disorder, whether permanent or temporary;
- “shock” means a sudden upsetting or surprising event or experience;
- “social assistance” means a programme which provides monetary, non-monetary or semi-monetary support to the persons specified in section 1;
- “social cash grant” means regular non-contributory payment of money provided by Government or a non-governmental organisation to eligible individual or household with the object of
- (a) reducing chronic or extreme poverty;
  - (b) addressing social risk; and
  - (c) reducing economic vulnerability;
- “social insurance” means the arrangement where a person receives benefits or services that are rights-based in recognition of contributions of the person to an insurance programme that is contractual and based on contributions;
- “social protection” means a range of actions carried out by the State and other organisations
- (a) in response to vulnerability and poverty; and

- (b) to guarantee relief for sections of the population who are not able to provide for themselves, including providing for a person throughout the life of the person to empower the person to confront risk and adversity;
- “Social Protection Directorate” means the Social Protection Directorate at the Ministry;
- “social protection intervention” means an action undertaken by the government or an organisation that is targeted at poor and vulnerable sections of the population in order to enhance access to
- (a) basic public goods and services, including health care, employment, education, sanitation and other welfare-related programmes; or
  - (b) alleviate social and economic problems;
- “social protection monitoring and evaluation system” means a system that tracks the use of resources and evaluates progress towards stated goals and objectives through systematic data collection;
- “social protection programme” means an agenda that seeks to reduce vulnerability and poverty by the empowerment and facilitation of household investments to prevent poverty and secure development in the long term;
- “social protection services” means the provision of social protection programmes;
- “social protection support” means any support provided to vulnerable persons, the poor or beneficiaries of social protection intervention or social protection programme;
- “socially vulnerable” means
- (a) an individual who is unable to withstand adverse impact from stress and shocks to which that individual is exposed; or
  - (b) a household, group or community which is unable to withstand adverse impact from stress and shocks to which the household, group or community is exposed;

“specialised agency” includes the agencies listed in the first column of the First Schedule and any other agency that provides social protection;

“stress” means a state of mental or emotional strain or tension resulting from adverse or demanding circumstances;

“sub-district functionaries” means persons working in an official capacity in the sub-district structures;

“sub-district level” includes sub-metropolitan district councils, zonal councils, town councils, area councils and unit committees;

“targeting” means the effort to focus resources among persons who are most in need of the resources; and

“vulnerability” means a condition where a person is in need of social protection and is eligible to receive social protection.

**SCHEDULES**

**FIRST SCHEDULE**

*(sections 8(a), 24(2)(a), and 69)(j)(i))*

**Specialised Agencies and Role in Social Protection**

<b>INSTITUTION</b>	<b>SOCIAL PROTECTION MANDATE</b>
NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION	<p>The National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) is established under the National Disaster Management Organisation Act, 2016 (Act 927). The NADMO is mandated to manage disasters and similar emergencies and develop the capacities of communities to respond effectively to disasters and emergencies. The NADMO is responsible for the implementation of government policy in disaster prevention, disaster risk reduction and climate risk management. It is required to identify, map and monitor hazards and collaborate with communities and relevant institutions for relevant public education.</p> <p>The NADMO is to facilitate responses and post-disaster recovery and rehabilitate and implement measures to prevent the escalation of disaster or alleviate and minimize the effects of disasters. Under Act 927, the NADMO is to establish and manage the National Disaster Management Fund.</p>

<p>COMMUNITY WATER AND SANITATION AGENCY</p>	<p>The Community Water and Sanitation Agency is established under the Community Water and Sanitation Agency Act, 1998 (Act 564). The Agency facilitates the provision of safe water and related sanitation services to rural communities and small towns. The Agency supports District Assemblies to ensure sustainable safe water supply and related sanitation services in rural communities and small towns. It also enables District Assemblies to encourage the active involvement of communities especially women in the design, planning, construction and community management of related projects and to formulate strategies from effective resource mobilisation. The Agency facilitates the public, private and non-governmental sector participation in water and sanitation delivery</p>
<p>COMMISSION FOR TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING</p>	<p>The Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training is established under Part Two of the Education Regulatory Bodies Act 2020 (Act 1023). The Commission is mandated to regulate, promote and administer technical and vocational education and training for transformation and innovation for sustainable development.</p>



	<p>The functions of the Commission include policy making for formal, informal and alternative education, coordinate and supervise training institutes to meet the requirements of both formal and informal sectors; administer national assessment and certification system; and ensure quality, equitable and inclusive access in the provision of technical and vocational education and training. Among others, the Commission will establish processes for recognition of prior learning and workplace learning experiences.</p>
<p>NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE AUTHORITY</p>	<p>The National Health Insurance Authority is established under the National Health Insurance Act, 2012 (Act 852) to provide universal health insurance coverage in relation to persons resident in the country, visitors to the country and access to healthcare services for persons under the National Health Insurance Scheme. The Authority is to ensure equity in healthcare coverage, enhance access by the poor to healthcare services and protect the vulnerable against financial risk. The Authority provides a decentralised system to receive and resolve complaints by members of the Scheme and health care providers.</p>

<p>YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AGENCY</p>	<p>The Youth Employment Agency is established under the Youth Employment Agency Act, 2005 (Act 887) to identify and create economically viable jobs, check rural-urban migration, inculcate self-discipline, good morals and a sense of patriotism in the youth.</p> <p>The Agency is required to coordinate youth employment and entrepreneurial programmes and supervise and facilitate job creation modules.</p>
<p>GHANA ENTERPRISES AGENCY</p>	<p>The Ghana Enterprises Agency is established under the Ghana Enterprises Agency Act, 2020 (Act 1043). The objects of the Agency are to promote and develop micro, small and medium enterprises in the country. The Agency is required to design and execute programmes to promote an enabling environment for the operations of micro, small and medium enterprises and establish a service delivery network to assist micro, small and medium enterprises. The law outlines other support the Agency must provide for micro, small and medium enterprises.</p> <p>Act 1043 provides for the establishment of regional and district offices. It establishes the Micro, Small Enterprise Fund to provide funding for the micro, small and medium enterprises sector and promote the development of these enterprises, particularly in the rural areas.</p>

**SECOND SCHEDULE**

*(sections 8(b), 47(1)(m) and 69)(i)(ii) and 70)*

Flagship Social Protection Programmes

**A. Flagship Social Protection Programmes - Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection**

1. Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
2. Ghana School Feeding Programme
3. Productive Inclusion

**B. Other Flagship Social Protection Programmes from other Ministries Departments and Agencies**

1. Labour Intensive Public Works
2. National Health Insurance Exemption
3. Basic Education Capitation Grants

**THIRD SCHEDULE**

*(sections 2(2)(c), 3, 24(1), 24(2)(d), 24(2)(e), 69(i)(ii) and 70)*

**Criteria for Social Assistance**

<b>NO.</b>	<b>VULNERABILITY CATEGORIES</b>	<b>EXAMPLES OF AFFECTED PERSONS</b>	<b>SOCIAL PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS/ SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES</b>
1.	Chronically poor	Severely disabled	Disability benefit; health insurance grant; social cash grant; and mobility-assistive devices.
		Terminally ill	Social cash grant and health insurance
		Widows and widowers without support	Micro-credit; health insurance; and alternative livelihood.
		Extremely poor petty traders	Micro-credit; skills and entrepreneurial training; networking; and alternative livelihood options.
2.	Economically at risk	Food crop farmers including livestock and fish farmers	Unemployment benefit; agriculture extension services; input subsidies; and alternative livelihood support.
		Traders	Micro-credit; skills training; and microfinance and small loans

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		Persons on the street	Health insurance; skills training; free compulsory universal basic education; and alternative livelihood support.
		Rural unemployed	Food aid, alternative livelihood support; skills training; and labour-intensive public works.
		Urban unemployed	Food aid; alternative livelihood support; skills training; and productive inclusion programmes.
		Smallholder commercial or subsistence food crop farmers including livestock and fish farmers	Financial and productive inclusion programmes; agriculture extension services; input subsidies; and alternative livelihood support.
		Orphan (child who has lost both parents and has no extended family support)	Creches; pre-school facilities; health insurance; social cash grant; free compulsory universal basic education; and skills training.
		Informal sector workers	Micro-credit; skills training; and alternative livelihood support.
		Older persons at risk	Health insurance; social grant; and cash grant.



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3.	Socially Vulnerable	Persons living with HIV/AIDS	Health insurance; psycho-social support; and other social services.
		Tuberculosis patients	Health insurance; and other social services as required.
		Victims of domestic violence including rape	Legal aid support; psycho-social support; and other
		Homeless persons	Social services.
		People living on the street	Social services.
		Prison inmates	Health insurance; and other social services.
		Poor female headed households	Micro-credit; health insurance; public works enterprise development; and cash grants.
		Persons with mental illness	Health insurance; specialised health services; social support services; psycho-social services; and cash grants for caregivers or families of mentally ill-persons.

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4.	National or Local Emergency	Affected persons	Food aid; shelter; cash transfer; health care; education; water, sanitation and hygiene services; safety and security; protection from abuse, violence and exploitation; and social welfare services.
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124. *Announcement*

Date of *Gazette* notification: 31st October, 2023.