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REPUBLIC OF GHANA

THE ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHTH

ACT

OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
ENTITLED

SOCIAL PROTECTION ACT, 2025

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.

DATE OF ASSENT: *14th August, 2025.*

PASSED by Parliament and assented to by the President:

Preliminary Provisions

Application of the Act

1. This Act applies to a person who falls within the following categories of vulnerability:

(a) chronically poor;
(b) economically at-risk;
(c) socially vulnerable; and
(d) a person 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, child 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 a 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 for 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 First 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 and efficient sharing of knowledge and application of lessons learnt through programme implementation; and

(iii) effective and efficient mobilisation and dissemination of timely, reliable and disaggregated data.

Social Protection

Eligibility for social protection intervention

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

Policy directives

4. The Minister may in writing give policy directives consistent with the object of this Act.

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 the 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) provide leadership for policy formulation and evaluation for social protection interventions and social protection programmes;

(h) determine the manner in which

(i) Ministries, Departments and Agencies,

(ii) District Assemblies,

(iii) statutory bodies, and

(iv) non-profit organisations

will collaborate with the Ministry to collect, compile and publish social protection data in relation to social protection interventions and social protection programmes;

(i) conduct research on social protection in collaboration with other stakeholders; and

(j) 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 *(j)* 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 an 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 implementation of social protection interventions and social protection programmes under the Ministry;

(ii) the harmonisation of work plans and budgets for social protection interventions and social protection programmes;
(iii) the tracking of performance and results of social protection interventions and social protection programmes;
(iv) the management information system relevant for the implementation of social protection interventions and social protection programmes;
(v) the identification and selection of beneficiaries of social protection interventions and social protection programmes through the National Household Registry to improve targeting; and
(vi) the implementation of the guidelines developed under paragraph *(j)* 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;
(d) maintain a database on social protection service providers and programmes in the country; and
(e) perform any other function that the Minister may direct in writing.

Collaboration with specialised agencies and agencies responsible for flagship programmes

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

(a) an agency responsible for a flagship social protection programme specified in the Second Schedule; and
(b) a specialised agency set out in the Third 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 and efficient 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 the 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. (1) There is established by this Act, the National Household Registry as a unit under the Research, Statistics and Information Management Directorate of the Ministry.

(2) The Minister shall ensure the effective and efficient management of the National Household Registry.

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,
(iii) extreme poor, and
(iv) 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 there is no data from the National Household Registry, 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, the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Management Unit under the Social Protection Directorate of the Ministry.

(2) The Minister shall ensure the effective and efficient 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) budgets

of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme;

(c) co-ordinate 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 58;

(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 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 responsible for 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 purpose 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, an official or a representative of a financial institution or an 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;
(c) the beneficiary is no longer eligible for the cash transfer; or
(d) the beneficiary has died.

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 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 First Schedule.

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

(a) the specialised agencies referred to in the Third Schedule to implement active labour market initiatives;

(b) the Ministry responsible for Labour, Jobs and Employment to implement employment support initiatives, including 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 First 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 First 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 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 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 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 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 agencies, international partners, National Council on Persons with Disability and benevolent private contributors, where appropriate, to complement national emergency relief efforts for 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 benefitting from an emergency intervention to be enrolled onto other social protection interventions for a long term support.

Ghana School Feeding Programme

27. (1) There is established by this Act, the Ghana School Feeding Programme Management Unit under the Social Protection Directorate of the Ministry.

(2) The Ministry shall ensure the effective and efficient

(a) management of the Ghana School Feeding Programme Management Unit; and

(b) implementation and management of the Ghana School Feeding Programme.

(3) For the purpose of subsection (2), 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 and efficient 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) female students are provided with menstrual hygiene products;
(d) children from chronically poor homes and communities are enrolled in child benefit schemes; and
(e) 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 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 educational 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 psycho-social 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 divulge the information 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) to 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 Social Protection Fund

33. There is established by this Act, the 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;
(c) the implementation of the Ghana School Feeding Programme; and
(d) any other activity for the effective and efficient implementation 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 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 effective and efficient 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. There is established by this Act, the National Social Protection Committee for the effective and efficient implementation of this Act.

Composition of the National Social Protection Committee

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

(a) the Minister or a representative of the Minister not below the rank of a Director, as chairperson;

(b) a representative each of the Ministries responsible for

(i) Finance,
(ii) Health,
(iii) Food and Agriculture,
(iv) Employment,
(v) Local Government,
(vi) Education, and
(vii) the Interior

not below the rank of a Director, nominated by the respective Ministers;

(c) a representative from the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice, not below the rank of Chief State Attorney, nominated by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice;

(d) a representative of the National Council on Persons with Disability nominated by the National Council on Persons with Disability;

(e) a representative of the National Development Planning Commission nominated by the Director-General of the National Development Planning Commission; and

(f) two representatives from Civil Society Organisations on Social Protection, nominated by the Civil Society Platform for Social Protection.

(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 National Social Protection Committee.

(4) The Minister may, in appointing the members under subsection (3), have regard to gender equity.

(5) The Committee may establish sub-committees to assist in the performance of functions of the Committee.

Functions of the National Social Protection Committee

42. (1) The Committee shall provide strategic oversight responsibility for the co-ordination 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 that funds are allocated for the integration of social protection into the

(i) development plans,

(ii) annual operational plans, and

(iii) budgets

of a District Assembly;

(f) ensure timely submission of periodic reports on social protection programmes;

(g) make proposals to ensure adequate and sustainable funding for social protection programmes;

(h) promote intersectoral advocacy and joint communication on social protection issues; and

(i) perform any other function ancillary to the functions specified in paragraphs *(a)* to *(h)*.

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 four years and is eligible for re-appointment for another term only.

(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 through the nominating authority.

(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 through the nominating authority, 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 chairperson shall notify the Minister to appoint a person to fill the vacancy.

Meetings of the National Social Protection Committee

44. (1) The 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 Committee, convene an extraordinary meeting of the Committee, at a time and place determined by the chairperson.

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

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

(5) Matters before the 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 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 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 Committee shall determine the procedure for the meetings of the Committee.

Disclosure of interest

45. (1) A member of the 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 Committee in respect of that matter.

(2) A member ceases to be a member of the Committee if that member has an interest in a matter before the Committee and

(a) fails to disclose that interest; or

(b) is present at or participates in the deliberations of the Committee in respect of that matter.

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

Secretariat of the National Social Protection Committee

46. The Social Protection Directorate is the Secretariat for the National Social Protection Committee.

Co-ordination and Monitoring of Social Protection at the Decentralised Level

Function of the Inter-Ministerial Co-ordinating Committee

47. The Inter-Ministerial Co-ordinating Committee established in section 204 of the Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936) shall ensure the mainstreaming and integration of social protection into the plans and budgets of the Regional Co-ordinating Councils and District Assemblies.

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

48. 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) provide technical assistance for social protection interventions and social protection programmes required in the District Assemblies;

(c) prepare and submit annual reports on the monitoring of social protection to the Minister through the Minister responsible for Local Government;

(d) mainstream and integrate social protection into the plans and budgets of the Regional Co-ordinating Councils and District Assemblies; and

(e) perform any other function necessary for the efficient and effective delivery of social protection.

Establishment of District Social Protection Implementation Teams

49. (1) A District Assembly shall establish a District Social Protection Implementation Team to support the implementation, co-ordination 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.

Composition of the District Social Protection Implementation Team

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

(a) the District Co-ordinating Director as chairperson;
(b) the Head of the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development;
(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 Gender Desk Officer;
(l) the District Health Insurance Scheme Manager;
(m) the focal person on issues of disability at the District Assembly; and
(n) the Member or Members of Parliament or a representative of the Member or Members of Parliament from the constituencies that fall within the area of authority of the District Assembly.

(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 Team, 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

51. 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 related 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, co-ordination 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

52. 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 to the District Social Protection Implementation Team.

Secretary to the District Social Protection Implementation Team

53. 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

54. The Secretary shall

(a) record and keep minutes of all meetings of the District Social Protection Implementation Team;

(b) co-ordinate resolutions of grievances and referral processes on matters of social protection;

(c) provide referrals to other complementary services;

(d) facilitate opportunities for persons specified in section 1 to pursue sustainable livelihoods through linkages with labour market programmes;

(e) facilitate productive and gainful employment of beneficiaries;

(f) work with the District Assembly to undertake community sensitisation and public hearings as appropriate; and

(g) report on social protection to the Social Services Sub-Committee of the District Assembly.

Community Facilitators

55. (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, ensure gender inclusion and participation.

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

Qualification for a Community Facilitator

56. 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 a resident and participates in community activities; and
(e) is a person of high moral character and integrity.

Functions of a Community Facilitator

57. (1) A Community Facilitator shall

(a) facilitate the mobilisation and sensitisation of the community for social protection interventions and social protection progammes;
(b) facilitate the selection and enrolment of beneficiaries in social protection interventions and social protection progammes;
(c) monitor training programmes in the community;
(d) monitor the performance of 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 progammes;
(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) prepare and submit quarterly reports as required by the District Social Protection Implementation Team;

(k) identify and promote the traditional forms of social protection in the community; and

(l) perform any other function assigned to the Community Facilitator by the District Social Protection Implementation Team.

(2) A Community Facilitator shall not be partisan in the performance of the functions of the Community Facilitator.

Grievances, Appeals and Case Management System

Complaints mechanism and case management

58. (1) An 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 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

59. (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 complaint unit of 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

60. (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

61. (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 Director of Social Protection.

(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 National Social Protection Committee.

(3) The National Social Protection Committee shall, within seven days, conduct further investigation into the appeal and take a decision on the appeal.

(4) The National Social Protection Committee may, after conducting an investigation and taking a decision on the appeal

(a) overturn the decision being appealed against;

(b) partially allow the appeal; or

(c) dismiss the appeal and uphold the decision of the Director of Social Protection.

(5) 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.

(6) Where the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of an appeal under subsection (3), the complainant may seek redress in court.

(7) An appeal 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 Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice may request.

Miscellaneous Provisions

Allowances

62. A member of the National Social Protection Committee, a District Social Protection Implementation Team and a Community Facilitator shall be paid an allowance approved by the Minister in consultation with the Minister responsible for Finance.

Conflict of interest

63. (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 has 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 the interest is likely to interfere with a social protection programme.

(6) Where the Ministry determines that the interest of a public officer is likely to interfere 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.

Offences

64. (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

(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 one thousand penalty units or to a term of imprisonment of not less than six months and not more than two years or to both.

Guidelines

65. 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

66. The Minister shall, within twelve months after the coming into force of this Act, 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 and efficient 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 and efficient 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 in paragraph *(d)* of section 1;

(i) to specify the vulnerabilities, modalities and type of assistance, information management and social support interventions for persons specified in section 1;

(j) to specify the nature of the reports required under this Act;

(k) to amend the

(i) First Schedule in respect of the criteria for social assistance;

(ii) Second Schedule in respect of the flagship social protection programmes; or

(iii) Third Schedule in respect of the specialised agencies and the role of the specialised agencies in social protection; and

(l) for the effective and efficient implementation of this Act.

Interpretation

67. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

"active labour market initiatives" mean 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 undertakes some obligations to improve the situation of the beneficiary and failure of the beneficiary to undertake the obligations could lead to the

(a) deprivation of the beneficiary of the benefits of the social protection programme; or

(b) 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 First 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 poor" means a person in a state of extreme poverty;

"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 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;

(c) have a recognised head of household; and

(d) 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;

"indigent categories" mean groups of persons that lack the basic necessities of life referred to in paragraph *(e)* of clause (2) of article 36 of the Constitution 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 responsible for Gender, Children and Social Protection;

"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 in 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 and financial inclusion" means income-generating activity for sustainable livelihood and access to credit or with bank account;

"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;

"public officer" means a person who holds a public office;

"pyscho-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 has lived in a community for a period of not less than six months prior to the engagement;

"risk" means the probability in a social setting of harmful consequences leading to loss of property, livelihood 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;

"Single Window Citizens Engagement Services" mean a system that receives complaints and grievances

(a) from beneficiaries of social protection programmes,

(b) in respect of social welfare and gender-based related issues, and

refers the complaints and grievances to relevant institutions or agencies for redress;

"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 an eligible individual or a 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

(a) enhance access to 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 entity 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" mean 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" means an agency listed in the first column of the Third 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;

"Unified Social Protection Case Management System" means a web-based platform that facilitates the entry of complaints and grievances and the referral processes of the Single Window Citizens Engagement Services;

"vulnerability" means a condition where a person is in need of social protection and is eligible to receive social protection; and

"vulnerable communities" mean communities with a significant number of persons who are chronically poor, economically at-risk, socially vulnerable or affected by a national or a local emergency.

SCHEDULES

FIRST SCHEDULE

(sections 2(2)(c), 3, 24(1), 24(2)(d), 24(2)(e), 66(k)(i) and 67)

Criteria for Social Assistance

NO.	VULNERABILITY CATEGORIES	EXAMPLES OF AFFECTED PERSONS	SOCIAL PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS/ SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES
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.

		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.

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; pyscho-social support; and other social services as required.
		Homeless persons People living on the street	Social services. Social services.
		Prison inmates Poor female headed households	Health insurance; and other social services. 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.

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.

SECOND SCHEDULE

(sections 8(a), 66(k)(ii) and 67)

Flagship Social Protection Programmes

The Flagship Social Protection Programmes include

1. Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
2. Ghana School Feeding Programme
3. Productive Inclusion
4. Labour Intensive Public Works
5. National Health Insurance Exemption
6. Basic Education Capitation Grants

THIRD SCHEDULE

(sections 8(b), 24(2)(a), 66(k)(iii) and 67)

Specialised Agencies and the Role of the Specialised Agencies in Social Protection

INSTITUTION	SOCIAL PROTECTION MANDATE
NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION	The National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) is established under the National Disaster Management Organisation Act, 2016 (Act 927). The National Disaster Management Organisation is mandated to manage disasters and similar emergencies and develop the capacities of communities to respond effectively to disasters and emergencies. The National Disaster Management Organisation 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. The National Disaster Management Organisation is to facilitate responses and post-disaster recovery and rehabilitate and implement measures to prevent the escalation of disaster or alleviate and minimise the effects of disasters. Under Act 927, the National Disaster Management Organisation is to establish and manage the National Disaster Management Fund.

COMMUNITY WATER AND SANITATION AGENCY	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. The Agency 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 mobilisaton. The Agency facilitates the public, private and non-government sector participation in water and sanitation delivery.
COMMISSION FOR TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING	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.

	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.
NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE AUTHORITY	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.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AGENCY	The Youth Employment Agency is established under the Youth Employment Agency Act, 2015 (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. The Agency is required to coordinate youth employment and entrepreneurial programmes and supervise and facilitate job creation modules.
GHANA ENTERPRISES AGENCY	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. 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.

GHANA MEDICAL TRUST FUND	The Ghana Medical Trust Fund is established under the Ghana Medical Trust Fund Act, 2025 (Act 1144) to mobilise resources to finance and support the provision of specialised medical care for the treatment of persons with chronic diseases. To achieve this object, the Fund supports approved patients in accessing specialised care, invests in programmes that promote equitable access and provides funding for specialist training and research relevant to chronic disease treatment. It also supports initiatives such as the procurement of medical equipment, development of infrastructure and human resource development. The Fund works in partnership with accredited specialist medical centres, pharmaceutical providers, laboratories and diagnostic facilities to achieve its object.

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