# Contents

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.................................................................................. 4
OUR BOARD MEMBERS........................................................................................................ 5
ABOUT HRAC.......................................................................................................................... 6
  Mission Statement................................................................................................................ 6
  Vision .................................................................................................................................. 6
  Goal .................................................................................................................................... 6
  Values ................................................................................................................................. 6
HRAC STAFF .......................................................................................................................... 7
VISIBILITY .................................................................................................................................. 9
  HRAC in the news.................................................................................................................. 9
  Social Media ........................................................................................................................ 10
  Bulletin ................................................................................................................................. 10
THEMATIC AREAS ................................................................................................................... 10
OUTREACHES .......................................................................................................................... 11
  International Women’s Day................................................................................................ 11
  World Mental health Day.................................................................................................... 12
  International Human Rights Day......................................................................................... 12
  Mental Health Sensitization Durbars................................................................................... 13
LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION ........................................................................ 15
  Empowerment Training for Female Sex Workers.............................................................. 15
  Workshop for Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM)......................................................... 15
  Meeting Between Security Officers and Networks for Key and Vulnerable Populations ...... 15
  Supportive supervision of HIV testing and mass sensitization on health and human rights ................................................................................................................................. 16
  Right-Based workshops for Nurses and Operators of Traditional and Faith-Based Healing Centres ........................................................................................................................................ 16
  STI screening and HIV testing for MSM ......................................................................... 17
       Health Screening Outcomes:.......................................................................................... 18
  ICASA 2019.......................................................................................................................... 19
GOVERNMENT AND STAKEHOLDER ACCOUNTABILITY...................................................... 21
Biannual Meeting on health and human rights of Key Populations.......................... 21
Training of volunteers on STAR-Ghana ‘SMS Voices’ Platform ......................................... 21
MSM Health Outreaches in Tamale and the National HIV/AIDS Context ......................... 22
LEGISLATION AND POLICY REFORM ....................................................................... 23
Validation of Research Report .......................................................................................... 23
Participation in the 5th AfHEA Biennial Scientific Conference ........................................ 23
Coalitions ......................................................................................................................... 24
THE HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC .................................................................................... 25
About Clinic ....................................................................................................................... 25
Cases ................................................................................................................................. 25
Success Story ..................................................................................................................... 26
The Case of the ‘Trotro’ Driver and the Mate................................................................. 26
Ghana Police Service Fulfill their Promised Special Reward for Informant ....................... 26
Child Maintenance Case Resolved .................................................................................... 27
OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS ............................................................................... 28
Donors ............................................................................................................................. 28
Partners ............................................................................................................................ 28
FINANCIAL REPORT .................................................................................................... 29
In 2019, the successes of the Human Rights Advocacy Centre within its thematic areas focused on improving access to healthcare of its constituents through empowering the targeted community and health care stakeholders.

The “Promoting quality access to mental health care and rights of persons with mental disabilities in traditional mental health centres in Ghana” project which was funded by STAR-Ghana improved the rights of Persons with Mental Disabilities (PMDs) to mental health care especially in the traditional healing centres. HRAC conducted “Rights-Based Approach to Mental Healthcare” workshops for nurses and operators of traditional mental health centres in the nine (9) out of the hitherto ten (10) regions of Ghana. The project also directly reached some of its target beneficiaries through three (3) community durbars in three (3) districts in Ghana to sensitize the communities and garner support and advocacy for protection for the rights of PMDs.

In the course of the year, the “Creating MSM Human Rights Awareness to Improve Access to Health” and “HIV/AIDS Prevention for Key and Vulnerable Populations along the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor” empowered and improved access to health care for key and vulnerable populations through empowerment and security trainings. They also enlightened health care providers and other stakeholders on the right of the key and vulnerable population to access healthcare and other services. The projects ended in October and December 2019 respectively.

Towards promoting social inclusion especially targeting the youth and grassroot community members, activities in the course of the year reached students at the tertiary level of education and communities. Activities included the commemoration of the International Women’s Day and World Mental Health Day at the University of Professional Studies and Accra Technical University respectively and the celebration of the International Human Rights Day with the community members of Yendi.

As part of our Human Rights Clinic’s activities, we provided legal services to the poor and vulnerable including in the popular case of the ‘Trotro’ Driver and his Mate as our contribution to leaving no one behind in the quest for justice. We received a total of seventy-one (71) cases on various issues including assault and battery, child maintenance and labour related complaints.

By the close of the year, the Centre’s Internship Programme had provided internship opportunities to sixteen (16) interns/volunteers (6 locals and 10 internationals) and service placement opportunities for nine (9) national service personnel.

In the course of the year under review, our Technical Advisor, Ms Wendy Abbey exited the Organisation. We recruited in the same year, a Project Officer, Ms Rafiatu Abdul-Salam.

As we begin 2020, I am optimistic that we will be able to reach more yet-to-be-reached communities. We also urge everyone to join us push the human rights agenda on our social media platforms to effect the change we all desire.

Cynthia Nimo-Ampedu
Executive Director
Nana Oye Lithur

Nana is a renowned lawyer and human rights advocate with national and international recognition for her experience in advocating for the rights of vulnerable persons in Ghana and in Africa. Nana Oye Lithur is the Chair of the Board.

Kenneth Thompson

Mr. Thompson is an orator and well known for his views on issues related to finance and economics in Ghana. He is a chartered accountant by profession, the CEO of Dalex Finance Limited and a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Amos Laar

Dr. Amos Laar is a Senior Lecturer of the University of Ghana and has academic training in Nutrition, Public Health, and Bioethics. He is well known for advising the Government of Ghana on various public health and nutrition matters - including scaling up nutrition in Ghana, HIV response targeted at key populations and the development of ethically-sensitive HIV national response strategies.

Edmund Foley

Mr. Edmund Amarkwei Foley is a Lecturer and Head of Department for Public Law at the Faculty of Law of the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration and lectures on Criminal Law, Human Rights Law, Administrative Law and Public Sector Legal Framework.

Korieh Duodu

Korieh has a wealth of experience in legal practice, both as a lawyer at the English and Ghanaian bars, and with the range of multinational clients he has worked with as retained counsel. Qualifying as a barrister in 1999, he has practiced with several top English and international firms until 2014, when he broadened his practice to serve both United Kingdom and West African clients, and requalified at the Ghanaian bar.
The Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC) is a not-for-profit, independent, non-partisan, research and advocacy organization set up to advance and protect human rights in Ghana. Established in 2008, HRAC is an Organization situated in the Greater Accra region that operates across Ghana.

As its core objectives, the Centre educates and creates awareness about human rights, conducts human rights advocacy and research, protects and promotes women and children's rights and advocate good governance, accountability and transparency on key policies in the country.

Other objectives are to promote and advocate reproductive health rights, initiate and support public interest litigation; monitor and advocate for democratic policing, to advocate for the rights of prisoners; to monitor and evaluate government's compliance with international, regional and national human rights standards; and training for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Security Agencies and Civil Society Organisations.

**Mission Statement**

We seek to ensure the realization, respect, promotion and protection of the rights of all persons living in Ghana in accordance with Ghanaian law and international standards.

We will increase human rights awareness and the adoption of a sustainable human rights culture, thereby enhancing democracy, good governance and accountability.

**Vision**

The main vision of HRAC is to improve the human rights landscape in Ghana. Our focus is on effectively addressing prevailing human rights issues with the best skills and expertise available.

**Goal**

To become an international NGO with local relevance with focus on effectively addressing prevailing human rights issues with the best skills and expertise available to make human rights a reality

**Values**
While sustainability is perceived to be largely dependent on an Organisation’s financial resources, this would not necessarily guarantee an Organisation’s sustainability in the absence of strong institutional structures. Working within the NGO space requires strong organizational policies to not only promote the viability of the Organisation’s work but also to ensure a healthy working environment that guarantees staff and beneficiary safety with rippling positive effect on work output. Additionally, a strong governance body is required to provide the needed guidance for the fulfilment of organizational mandate.

Our healthy work environment is safeguarded by our Child Protection, Safeguarding and Sexual Harassment Policies and the staff Code of Conduct. The Policies are available in reader friendly briefs. We have also increased the membership of the Board from four to five to promote its smooth operation and strengthen the technical support base for the Organisation.

Our Strategic Plan which expired at the end of this year 2019 has been reviewed and a new one developed for the next three years, 2020 to 2022.
HRAC in the news

Here are some of our media presence in the year under review:

On 10\textsuperscript{th} December, 2019 the Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC) with funding support from ViiV HealthCare Positive Action and in partnership with the Royal Netherlands Embassy organised a community durbar at Yendi in the Northern Region to mark the International Human Rights Day 2019.

https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Yendi-marks-international-humanrights-day-814018

The Wa West District recorded 3,641 mental health conditions from 2016 to the second quarter of 2019. The Wa West District Director of Health Services disclosed this during a mental health community durbar at Wenchiau in the WA West District organised by the Human Rights Advocacy Centre in partnership with Mind Freedom Ghana on 7\textsuperscript{th} November, 2019.


On 19\textsuperscript{th} September, 2019 the HRAC in partnership with Mindfreedom Ghana organised a Community Durbar to sensitize the public on rights of Persons with Mental Disabilities (PMDs) at Yendi. The community durbar was part of activities towards the implementation the project “Promoting quality access to mental health care and rights of persons with mental disabilities in traditional mental health centres in Ghana”, funded by STAR-Ghana.


Ms. Cynthia Nimo-Ampedu, the Executive Director of the Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC), counseled the public to show kindness and empathy to persons with mental disabilities (PMD) and avoid the use unfriendly words and actions that stigmatise PMD. She made the call during a workshop on right-based approach to mental health care for operators of traditional and fait-based healing centres at Ejisu-Krapa in Ashanti Region on 1\textsuperscript{st} August, 2019.

https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Stop-describing-the-mentally-challenged-as-mad-people-Public-advised-770606?fbclid=IwAR0wytB5cBza-mIH1xcSgWku6dfn-oO-HKBD_3IT5elQ7xHoirciWjstHjk

On 31\textsuperscript{st} July, 2019 the Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC) in partnership with MindFreedom Ghana (MFGh) organized a workshop on right-based approach to mental health care for psychiatric and general nurses at Ejisu-Krapa in Ashanti Region on.

https://ghanaonlinenews.com/hrac-empowers-nurses-on-rights-based-approach-to-mental-healthcare/

Our social media handles (Twitter and Facebook) continue to be active and provide up to date information on ongoing work within the Organisation. Our half yearly bulletins are equally available on our website providing brief narrations on HRAC’s activities.
VISIBILITY

Social Media

Facebook: HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY CENTRE
Twitter: @HRACGHANA

Bulletin

THEMATIC AREAS

- Access to Justice
- Social Inclusion
- Legislation and Policy reform
- Health
- Government Accountability
- Community and Institutional Strengthening
OUTREACHES

International Women’s Day
On 8th March 2019, HRAC together with the Faculty of Law, University of Professional Studies (UPSA) supported Amnesty International Ghana (AIG) to host a public dialogue on Gender Balance in Ghana to mark International Women’s Day. The theme for the year’s celebration was “Balance for Better” which resonates with goal 5 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which stresses on Gender Equality and the need to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls.

The Dean of the Faculty of Law at the UPSA, Prof. Kwame Frimpong, opened the event with a welcome address and stressed the need for the promotion of women’s right to be prioritized taking cognizance of the fact that women form an integral part of the society in the struggle for our advancement in life. Subsequently, the Campaigns and Fundraising Coordinator of Amnesty International Ghana, Mr. Samuel Komla Agbotsey explained that the purpose of bringing the event to UPSA campus was to give the students the opportunity to have a feel of human rights and its practice to add up to their theoretical knowledge bank.

The event comprised a panel discussion with renowned women who addressed various topics on women’s empowerment in Ghana. Nana Oye Lithur addressed the imbalance in the economic and political space that favour and empower men more than women. She said, “it is injustice against women who constitute over 50% of Ghana’s population to have less than 15% representation in political and economic leadership. Moving forward, we demand at least 30% of female representation across all sectors.” Dr Maame Gyenke-Jandoh, Head of the Political Science Department of the University of Ghana, traced the historical background of women’s rights in Ghana from the era of President Kwame Nkrumah. In her submission Dr Francisca Kusi-Appiah, a lecturer at Faculty of Law of the University of Professional Studies, Accra identified academic qualification, name-calling, financial dependence and lack of funding as some of the challenges women are more likely to face in their effort to play their role in national development. On her part Maame Akosua Asare, Deputy Board Secretary of Amnesty International Ghana and a youth advocate spoke on the role of young people and the fast changing world and pointed out that negative stereotyping of women fuels abuse against women and prevents them from reporting same.

Ms Cynthia Nimo-Ampredu, the Executive Director of HRAC, in her solidarity message appealed to President Nana Akufo-Addo to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to holistically address issues of women’s empowerment. “We call on His Excellency, who is also an internationally recognised gender champion and his government to prioritise women’s empowerment,” she said.
World Mental Health Day

The HRAC in partnership with MindFreedom Ghana (MFGh) organised a panel discussion at the Accra Technical University on 16th October, 2019 to mark World Mental Health Day 2019. The event was part of activities toward the implementation of the STAR Ghana Foundation funded project “Promoting quality access to mental healthcare and rights of persons with mental disabilities in traditional mental health centres in Ghana”. The event educated and raised awareness on suicide to sensitise students and remove mental health related stigma; created safe space for students to openly discuss their concerns in relation to their mental health; and empowered them to identify mechanisms, strategies and social support systems for suicide prevention under the theme “Suicide is not an option: Seek help!”. The Co-Director of MFGh, Nii Lartey Addico in his opening address stated that, suicide is a mental health condition and it is unfair and psychologically distressing to further subject anyone who attempts to kill him/herself to prosecution under the current criminal law. He therefore reiterated HRAC and MFGh’s call for attempted suicide to be decriminalized and called for the provision of the needed psychological support to anyone who attempts to kill him/herself. The event had 104 students and staff in attendance.

A Panel discussion provided the students with knowledge on mental health conditions including suicide and identified avenues for support and early detection. The panel of experts comprised: Etornam Gblende, the Greater Accra Regional Coordinator of Mental Health Authority, Dr. Seth Mawusi Asafo (Clinical psychologist), Pastor K.B. Odoom (Clinical Counselor, Accra Academy Senior High), Ms. Cecilia Ashalley (suicide survivor), and ACP Lydia Donkor (Greater Accra Director for Legal and Prosecution, Ghana Police Service). Topics such as academics, social media and relationships were factored into the discussion to tailor it to the needs of the students. The students were enthused to learn of treatment possibilities and to hear the real life experience of a survivor which contributed greatly to demystifying mental health. The students received resources including places to seek mental health care and hotlines to facilitate their easy access to mental health care.

Although mental health conditions are predominantly health related, students were also enlightened about the legal consequences of attempted suicide. In her submission, ACP Lydia Donkor (Greater Accra Director for Legal and Prosecution, Ghana Police Service) indicated her support for the decriminalisation of attempted suicide and medical and psychological treatment for survivors.

International Human Rights Day

On 10th December 2019, HRAC with funding support from ViiV Positive Action and in partnership with the Royal Netherlands Embassy organized a community durbar at Yendi in the Northern Region to mark the International Human Rights Day 2019. The celebration sensitized members of the community to their rights and educated them to respect the rights of others under the theme “Stand up for Equal Rights: Say no to
discrimination”. The event was graced by important traditional authority personalities like Chief Bindana Ayuba Ziblim Ahmed who represented the Yaa Naa and chaired the occasion, and Alhaji Hammed Abubakari Yussuf, the Yendi Municipal Chief Executive who acknowledged the event as the first of its kind in the district. The event was supported by the Ghana AIDS Commission with the provision of free HIV testing and screening services for the participants. Two hundred and fourteen invited guests and schoolchildren and other community members participated in the event.

Various leaders in the community who were invited to grace the occasion also gave solidarity messages. They all emphasized the need to respect the fundamental human rights of every citizen irrespective of their differences. The occasion was marked with traditional dance performances and an educative skit by local traditional dance and drama groups. Performances highlighted human rights issues within the communities including stigma and discrimination. Chief Bindana Ayuba Ziblim Ahmed and Ms. Cynthia Nimo-Ampedu, the Executive Director of HRAC lighted a symbolic flame to signify traditional authority and civil society commitment to human rights protection.

In his closing remarks, the Chairperson called on the people of Yendi and Ghana as a whole to rise up and uplift the human rights of the people in their communities. He also reminded the school children to indulge in good behaviour in order to reap a better future.

**Mental Health Sensitization Durbars**

The Human Rights and Advocacy Center (HRAC) and MindFreedom Ghana (MFGh) embarked on a community durbar in Nkwankwanua, Yendi and Wechiau in February, September and November 2019 as part of community awareness activities under the project “Promoting Quality Access to Mental Healthcare and Rights of Persons with Mental Disabilities in Traditional Mental Health Centres in Ghana”. The durbar sensitized the communities and garnered their support for protection for the rights of Persons with Mental Disabilities under the theme, “Promoting the wellbeing and rights of persons with mental disabilities: It Could Be Me! It Could Be You!”. The durbar reached Eight-hundred and thirty-one (831) community members with information on the law on mental health in Ghana, causes of mental disabilities, and available health facilities for treatment of mental illness at community/district and regional levels.
The durbars received immense support from both State and non-State actors in mental health and leaders and members of the community. These include Municipal and District Directors of Health Services; Municipal and District Directors of Ghana Education Service (GES); District Directors of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ); Municipal and District Commanders of Ghana Police Service and District DOVVSU Commanders. Others include Heads of invited Junior and Senior High Schools; Special Needs Coordinators of GES; traditional leaders including Nana Kofi Asamoah, Dwatufohene of Nwankwanua, Nana Kofi Asamoah, Paramount Chief of Wechiau, Naa Imori Nandom Gomah II and the Paramount Chief of Dorimon, Naa Suhiminye Gori II and their elders; staff of the Municipal and District Health Directorates and hospital; Youth Employment Agency (YEA); Department of Social Welfare & Community Development (DSW) and representatives of various trade unions and associations.

The durbar activities included drama, cultural displays, panel discussions and open forum all undertaken by community members. These community engagements which contributed to increased awareness amongst community members will strengthen the collaboration between service providers and community leaders to support and protect the rights of persons with mental disorders and their caregivers.
LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

Empowerment Training for Female Sex Workers
As part of activities in the implementation of Abidjan-Lagos Corridor (ALCO) Project “HIV/AIDS Prevention for Key and Vulnerable Populations along the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor”, HRAC in collaboration with Pro-Link successfully conducted a “know your rights and responsibilities” training and sensitization for Female Sex Workers (FSWs) at Elubo and Aflao on 28th March, 2019. Fifteen (15) FSWs and four (4) Peer Educators (PEs) participated in the training.

The training empowered the FSWs to protect their rights and report cases of human rights abuses against them, through improved knowledge on their human rights and responsibilities. Through the training, participants understood that the focus of the project was to improve their access to health care, which is a human right and that any act of another person that prevents them (FSWs) from accessing health is an infringement on their rights. Additionally, participants were enlightened on why they should report cases of abuse, things not to do when physically/sexually abused, who to report to and where to report cases of human rights abuse.

Workshop for Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM)
HRAC in collaboration with the West African AIDS Foundation under the “Creating MSM Human Rights awareness to improve access to health” project, embarked on an empowerment training for MSM in Tamale in the Northern region on March 2019. Twenty (20) MSM participated in the event. The training empowered participants to resist any form of human rights abuses through human rights and legal education and sensitization on available mechanism for legal redress when they encounter rights violation.

Participants were taken through HRAC’s “Know Your Rights” series, reporting of abuse cases with emphasis on the need to report abuse, access to health care and the role of Peer Educators (PEs) in cases management. The workshop, through the “Understanding your health as MSM” session also created health awareness among the MSM community and encouraged them to access healthcare services without fear of stigma and discrimination.

Meeting Between Security Officers and Networks for Key and Vulnerable Populations
As part of activities in the implementation of the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor (ALCO) Project “HIV/AIDS prevention for Key and Vulnerable Populations along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor”, HRAC organized a meeting between Security Officers and NGOs/CSO, Key Populations (KPs) and Journalist at the Aflao and Elubo sites. The meeting discussed Gender-Based Violence and other human rights concerns affecting Key and Vulnerable Population at the project sites. A total of twenty-seven (27) representatives from Ghana Police Service, Ghana Immigration Service, ALCO Information Unit,
CEPEHRG, Pro-Link, Ghana Health Service, PPAG, media houses, Peer Educators and SW and MSM participated in the meetings.

During the meetings Ms. Cynthia Nimo-Ampeddu, Executive Director of HRAC made presentations on the principles of human rights, Gender Based Violence (GBV), forms of GBV and issues of protection and reporting. The presentations refreshed participants’ knowledge on human and legal rights of Key and Vulnerable Populations in the Ghanaian context. With the help of case scenarios on GBV and human rights abuses, and subsequent participatory discussions, HRAC facilitators evaluated the impact of previous workshops on the work of participants and their understanding of the presentations. The Facilitators concluded the discussions by encouraging participants (KPs) and CSOs to report GBV cases immediately they happen to avoid loss of evidence.

The representatives of the Ghana Police Service and Ghana Immigration pledged their support and encouraged Peer Educators and representatives of KP focused CSOs to contact them when they encounter challenges with reporting cases at the stations.

Supportive supervision of HIV testing and mass sensitization on health and human rights

HRAC conducted seven (6) Supportive Supervision of Mass Sensitization on health and human rights, and STI/HIV testing and screening exercise for MSM and FSW under “HIV/ADS Prevention for Key and Vulnerable Populations along the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor” project. The activities organized by Centre for Popular Education and Human Rights (CEPEHRG) in Aflao and Denin in Volta Region and Elubo and Half Asinni in Western Region, recorded one hundred and three (103) MSM participants. Pro-links activity in Aflao and Elubo recorded twenty-eight (28) FSW participants.

This activity supported and supervised health and human rights outreaches by peer educators of CEPEHRG and Pro-Link and STI/HIV testing and screening exercises of participants. HRAC leveraged on these outreaches to conduct a “know your rights and responsibilities” training and human rights sensitization for the participants.

Right-Based workshops for Nurses and Operators of Traditional and Faith-Based Healing Centres

Under the STAR-Ghana funded project “Promoting quality access to mental healthcare and rights of persons with mental disabilities in traditional mental health centres in Ghana”, HRAC conducted “Rights-Based Approach to Mental Healthcare” workshops for nurses and operators of traditional mental health centres. The workshops were held in nine (9) of the hitherto ten (10) regions of Ghana, namely Central, Eastern, Volta, Western, Brong Ahafo, Ashanti, Upper East, Upper West and Northern Regions. Two hundred and sixty-two (231) nurses and two hundred and eighteen (218) operators of traditional mental health centres were reached through a total of eighteen (18) workshops: nine (9) each for nurses and operators.
The workshops included interactive human rights teaser and value clarification exercises to engage participants in a discussion on their general understanding of human rights and encourage them to reflect on their beliefs on rights of persons with mental disabilities. The training content comprised international and national human rights frameworks, Ghana’s legislative and policy framework on mental health, including the Mental Health Act 2012, Mental Health Authority Staff Charter, and the Guidelines for Traditional and Faith-Based Healers and the impact of stigma on the rights of persons with mental disabilities in Ghana.

The workshops informed and challenged the participants on their knowledge on human rights in Ghana and also provided the platform for them to ask questions through group work activities and discussion sessions. Participants appreciated their new knowledge. These workshops were effective in compiling information on the concerns of nurses and operators while providing the platform for them to use the right-based approach in providing service, protecting and advocating for the rights of persons with mental disabilities.

**STI screening and HIV testing for MSM**

The HRAC in collaboration with the West African AIDS Foundation (WAAF) with support from the Ghana Aids Commission (GAC) Technical Support Unit (TSU) conducted six (6) Mobile Health Screening services targeting Men who have sex with Men (MSM) in the Tamale Municipality in the Northern region of Ghana. The choice of the intervention site was influenced by the fact that the MSM community in the Northern Region is a hidden one due to the cultural and religiously induced stigma and related abuse against them. As a result, MSM do not access healthcare services. The activity provided Mobile STI screening services for MSM within the municipality, bringing access to health closer to the MSM community in Tamale and encouraging them to overcome external and self-stigma to access healthcare at the health facilities in their communities. For many of the MSM, this was the first time of accessing sexual
and reproductive health service thereby opening the door for them to access health care through referrals by the project team. The Mobile Clinics were part of implementing activities under the “Creating MSM Human Rights Awareness to Improve Access to Health” project.

The mobile clinic reached **Sixty-two (62)** MSM during the implementation period with some of them receiving more than one service. Services provided include STI screening and treatment, HIV testing, counseling and referrals and distribution of condoms. The clinic team used social, fun and educative events to bring together members of the MSM community for the clinic's activities. Event activities include music, dance, health education and refreshment. On the sidelines of the fun and learning session, a nurse provided STI screening and HIV testing for participants.

The WAAF team submitted data from the screening/testing activities to the data division of GAC. GAC staff were impressed with the testing outcome and requested to upscale the activity to other MSM communities in the region. GAC pledged its continuous collaboration with the project team and indicated its desire to sustain the intervention when the project ends.

**Health Screening Outcomes:**
Other data collected are on safe sex practices, number of partners and gender of sex of partners.

ICASA 2019

The 20th International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASAA) held in 2019 was hosted by Rwanda from 2nd – 7th December 2019. The Conference was held under the theme, ‘AIDS-free Africa- Innovation, Community and Political Leadership’.

The conference drew participants from across Africa and all stakeholders both State and non-state to examine the sustainability of the 90-90-90 UNAIDS goal post the SDGs, highlighting the key role of human rights within the context of strengthening the application of science-based evidence. This was achieved through sharing of various interventions being implemented in African countries. The Conference focused on 4 main areas- basic
science (biology and pathogenesis); clinical science, treatment and care; epidemiology and prevention science; law, human rights, social science and political science; and health systems, economics and implementation science.

HRAC successfully submitted an abstract on ‘Addressing Key Populations’ Legal and Human Rights Barriers to Health Care’ which addressed criminalization of HIV under the Domestic Violence Act 2007. HRAC’s representative, Ms Cynthia Nimo-Ampedu made the poster presentation to Conference participants. HRAC also participated in other sessions at the conference including sessions that addressed stigma and discrimination, and financing for gender equality in HIV/AIDS as well as sessions that showcased some remarkable interventions targeting adolescent girls, young women and the youth generally like DREAMS and Africaid Zvandiri.
GOVERNMENT AND STAKEHOLDER ACCOUNTABILITY

Biannual Meeting on health and human rights of Key Populations

HRAC held Biannual meetings on 28th February, 2019 and 29th March, 2019 at Aflao and Elubo respectively as part of activities under the “HIV/AIDS Prevention for Key and Vulnerable Populations along the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor” project. The meetings which form an important component for monitoring project impact brought members of the HRAC/ALCO advocacy network up to speed on project activities, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) as well as human rights concerns affecting key and vulnerable populations in Aflao, Elubo and their environs.

Twenty-six (26) members of the advocacy network comprising representatives from Ghana Police Service, Ghana Immigration Service, Ghana Health Service, Key Populations (KP), Peer Educators, CEPEHRG, Pro-Link, PPAG, Journalist and the ALCO Information Unit participated in the two meetings. With 2019 being the final year of the project, the meeting recounted the purpose of the advocacy network and refreshed the knowledge of members on human and legal rights of KPs, GBV, stigma and discrimination, reporting and managing of human rights abuse cases against KP.

Participants reported on their organisations’ work with KPs and briefed the meeting participants on their plans to improve on abuse case reporting and referral of medical cases from STI screening and HIV testing to the health facilities. The meeting observed that although the network has indicated its readiness to assist KPs in accessing stigma and discrimination free health and legal services, KP communities are not accessing these services because of high incidence of self-stigma and past experience with service providers. Members of the network pledged to support KPs in reporting abuse cases and accessing health and legal services.

Training of volunteers on STAR-Ghana ‘SMS Voices’ Platform

STAR-Ghana, BasicNeeds Ghana and HRAC/Mindfreedom Ghana organized a workshop training in the Central Region for the volunteers of BasicNeeds Ghana on the STAR Ghana’s SMS voice reporting platform. The training equipped volunteers with basic skills in using the SMS Voices Platform to report on the conditions and treatments of persons with mental illness and the violations of their rights in the traditional healing centres.
Representatives from State partners participated in the workshop, including representatives from Ghana Health Service/Regional Mental Health Centre, Regional Social Welfare, Ghana Federation of Traditional Medicine Practitioners Associations (GHAFTRAM), and Regional Office – Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Central Region.

The volunteers were educated on the newly launched Mental Health Authority Guidelines for Traditional and Faith-based Healers in Mental Healthcare as well as how the SMS Voices Platform would enable them to implement the Guidelines. The participants were educated on the benefits of the platform, including the accessible verification of information, clarification of responsibilities, and increased level of awareness of issues and events relating to the human rights of persons with mental health conditions.

MSM Health Outreaches in Tamale and the National HIV/AIDS Context

In all, the WAAF team through the health screenings reached out to 62 MSM who received STI screening and HIV testing, as well as education on sexual health and safe practices and received condoms and lubricants.

National data on HIV prevalence among MSM in the 3 northern regions indicates an HIV prevalence of 4.3% (Ref. Ghana Men’s Study II, GAC 2017) as against HIV prevalence of 20.9% recorded by WAAF amongst the 62 participants tested. Out of the total number screened, 13 MSM were identified to be reactive to HIV and 14 have been diagnosed and treated for STIs (mainly Gonorrhea, Chlamydia and anal warts). Out of the 13 HIV reactive cases, 9 have been confirmed positive with 8 of them initiated on Anti-retroviral Therapy by the close of the project in December 2019. The remaining 5 are receiving follow-ups by the nurses. The WAAF team submitted data from the screening/testing activities to the data division of the Ghana AIDS Commission.

An HIV positivity yield of 20.9% (13/62) clearly indicates there is a need for more interventions and prevention education for the MSM community in Tamale. The Project Management Team is hopeful that with the findings from the advocacy, human rights sensitization and innovative maiden mobile clinic activities conducted in the Tamale Municipality, State will be more aware of the needs of MSM in the four northern regions and make adequate provision for them in HIV intervention programmes.
LEGISLATION AND POLICY REFORM

Validation of Research Report
The STAR-Coalition under the “Promoting quality access to mental healthcare and rights of persons with mental disabilities in traditional mental healthcare centres in Ghana” project funded by STAR-Ghana embarked on a research to explore the role of traditional mental health centers and their impact on promoting quality mental healthcare and human rights in Ghana. The research assessed the quality of care offered by operators of TMHC, variation in service provision, regulations and their adherence to human rights practices for the treatment of persons with mental disabilities in TMHC. The research was conducted in ten (10) districts selected from six (6) zoned regions of Ghana.

The STAR-Coalition on 27th November, 2019 held a validation meeting with stakeholders and partners at Coconut Grove Regency Hotel, Accra as part of the process towards the finalization of the research report.

The event had twenty-seven (27) participants from both State and non-State stakeholder institutions who critiqued the findings and made recommendations in response to the findings.

Participation in the 5th AfHEA Biennial Scientific Conference
The theme of the 5th African Health, Economics and Policy Biennial Scientific Conference that occurred from 11th to 14th of March 2019 was “Securing Primary Health Care for All: The Foundation for Making Progress on Universal Health Care (UHC) in Africa”. At the conference, Dr. Gina Teddy, Director of the Centre for Health Systems and Policy Research (CHESPOR) who also doubled as HRAC’s mental health research consultant presented a paper on behalf of HRAC, showcasing preliminary findings of the STAR-Coalition (Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC) and MindFreedom Ghana (MFGh)) Mental Health research under the project “Promoting Quality Access to Mental Healthcare and Rights of Persons with Mental Disabilities in Traditional Mental Health Centres in Ghana”. She created awareness on the objectives of the research and offered suggestions that will aid in the achievement of a universal healthcare that is inclusive of mental health
services with the aim of improving quality and respect for the rights of persons with mental disabilities.

The conference recorded over 400 participants, including economists, policy, research and health professionals from the private and public sector, across a variety of disciplines and around the globe. Notable participants included His Excellency Alhaji Mahamudu Bawumia, the Vice President of Ghana, Mr. Kwaku Agyemang Manu, the Minister of Health, and the Director General of the Ghana Health Service Dr. Nsiah Asare.

**Coalitions**

*Membership on RTI Coalition*

As a member of the Right to Information Coalition, HRAC participated in media engagements, lobbying Members of Parliament and monitoring of the review of the Right to Information Bill by Parliament to push for the passage of the Bill into law. HRAC also served on the Coalition’s Technical Committee to undertake a final review of the Bill ahead of its passage into law. Thanks to the efforts of the Coalition and the Parliament of Ghana, the Right to Information Bill which has been in the making since 1999 was passed into Law in March 2019.

*Membership on Jammeh2Justice Coalition*

In February 2005, 56 African migrants, 44 of whom being Ghanaian migrants were brutality killed in Gambia during Yahya Jammeh’s tenure as President of the Gambia. As part of efforts to seek justice for the victims’ families and the known lone survivor, Martin Kyere, a coalition of Civil Society Organization (CSOs) launched a campaign, “Jammeh2JusticeGhana,” with the primary objective of persuading the Government of Ghana to initiate the extradtion of Yahya Jammeh from Equatorial Guinea in order to prosecute him in Ghana.

In 2019, the Coalition organized media engagements and a forum to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the J2J campaign. Other activities of the Coalition in the year include regional public fora to raise awareness on J2J campaign and to garner support from the public and families of victims, symposium to commemorate the International Human Rights Day, 2019 and lobbying the Ghanaian Government to initiate processes for the prosecution of Yahya Jammeh in Ghana.

The Coalition also initiated a field investigation and research for production of a documentary on the killings of the 56 West Africans in Gambia. Through this investigation, two other survivors have been identified as momentum builds up for government of Ghana to seek justice for the victims and their families.
THE HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC

About Clinic

The Human Rights Clinic (HRC) provides free, confidential, legal support to vulnerable and indigent members of the public whose fundamental human rights have been violated. Cases handled by the Clinic include maintenance for children, immigration, discrimination and labour related disputes. The Clinic facilitates dialogue between parties and out of court settlement of disputes in civil cases and refers cases requiring State or prosecutorial attention to relevant State bodies.

The Clinic may be accessed through walk-ins, telephone calls or through HRAC’s online including email platforms.

Cases

In 2019, the Human Rights Clinic received 71 complaints. The Clinic referred cases to responsible State agencies, institutions and its Pro Bono Lawyers Network and resolved other cases through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) processes. Below is segregated data on cases received, response mechanisms used to address cases and status of cases at the end of 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PENDING CASES</th>
<th>CLOSED CASES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ON HOLD</td>
<td>SUCCESSFULLY RESOLVED BY ITSELF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACTIVE</td>
<td>NO CASE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNREACHABLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NOT INTERESTED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TYPES OF CASES

- Assault and Battery: 8
- False Imprisonment: 3
- Custody: 2
- Labour: 12
- Compensation: 4
- Maintenance: 9
- Estate: 4
- Murder: 1
- Unlawful detention: 1
- Other: 27

RESPONSIVE MECHANISM

- Pro Bono Lawyers: 48.68%
- State Institutions: 16.22%
- In-house: 7.10%
Success Story
The Case of the ‘Trotro’ Driver and the Mate

On 16th March, 2019, a video of two men physically assaulting a police officer went viral. Shortly thereafter, the Police arrested the two men identified as Francis Buabeng (a trotro driver), and his mate, Albert Ansah. They were arraigned before the Circuit Court at Weija, on 18th March 2019, where their pleas were taken. They did not have any legal representation during the court proceedings. They were remanded in police custody for two weeks to reappear before the Court on 1st April, 2019. On 20th March, 2019 representatives of the Human Rights Advocacy Centre together with Car Dealers Association and Committed Drivers Association sought access to the accused persons at the Odorkor Police Station where they were believed to be held. This was part of the process to provide them legal representation in accordance with their right to legal representation under the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.

However, the Ghana Police Service refused to inform the team led by Ms Nimo-Ampredu, the Executive Director and Head of the HRAC’s Human Rights Clinic, of the whereabouts of Francis and Albert, thereby denying them access to the accused persons. HRAC accordingly issued a press statement demanding that the Ghana Police Service discloses the whereabouts of the two accused persons. The Ghana Police Service promptly disclosed the whereabouts of the accused persons and granted access to HRAC, Amnesty International Ghana, and Mr. Martin Kpebu, a private legal practitioner engaged as lead counsel for the accused persons.

HRAC together with lead counsel for the accused persons secured bail for the accused persons and their acquittal on three out of the four charges brought against them. Together with other interest groups: COPEC Ghana, Committed Drivers Association, Car Dealers Association, GPRTU and the media, advocacy for fair trial was sustained.

On the 20th of November, 2019 a Circuit Court in Weija, Accra, found Francis Buabeng and Albert Ansah guilty of the charges Ms Cynthia Nimo-Ampadu, a member of the defence team for the accused persons, prayed the Court for leniency in sentencing after their conviction, on grounds including the fact that the accused persons were first-time offenders, and were responsible adults who had dependant families. The Judge accordingly exercised his discretion to impose a fine of GHS 3,600 or in default serve a prison term of 12 months. The GPRTU and other friends and sympathizers put together assisted Francis and Albert to pay the fine.

Ghana Police Service Fulfill their Promised Special Reward for Informant

On 8th December 2014, a gang of armed robbers short and killed a security officer during a robbery attacked on the Melcom Shopping Mall at Madina. The Ghana Police Service (GPS) subsequently, pledged to reward informants who provide leading information for the arrest of the suspects. Solomon (not his real name) provided a lead to the police for the arrest of the suspects who were
subsequently arrested in Kumasi. Upon several attempt to have GPS fulfill their promise had failed, Solomon sought the assistance of HRAC to enable him claim his promised reward. The Clinic through a petition to the Inspector General of Police successfully got the GPS to fulfill their promise and rewarded the informant accordingly.

**Child Maintenance Case Resolved**

Adele (not her real name) contacted the Clinic on 23rd May 2020 to assist her resolve a child maintenance default by the father of her child. The Clinic, on 13th February 2019 through mediation successfully resolved the issue and got the child’s father to commit to support his child as required under the laws of Ghana.
OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS

Donors

Partners
### HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY CENTRE
#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
##### AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GHc</td>
<td>GHc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, Plant and Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepayment</td>
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<td>Cash at Bank and on hand</td>
<td>196,758</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>251,792</td>
<td>199,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>252,991</td>
<td>199,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUND &amp; LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Fund</td>
<td>187,144</td>
<td>156,291</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>188,144</td>
<td>157,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrual</td>
<td>46,995</td>
<td>10,630</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>53,955</td>
<td>10,630</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loan</td>
<td>17,852</td>
<td>31,190</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL FUND AND LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>252,991</td>
<td>199,111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signature: [Signature]
Director’s name: Nana Oye Likour
Date: 20/06/2020

Signature: [Signature]
Director’s name: Kenneth Thompson
Date: 27/06/2020

The notes and schedules attached form part of these Accounts. Auditors' Report is on pages 5 and 6.
## HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPUTER &amp; ACCESSORIES</th>
<th>FURNITURE &amp; FITTINGS</th>
<th>EQUIPMENT</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<td><strong>COST</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance as at 1/1/2019</td>
<td>$51,231</td>
<td>42,363</td>
<td>$93,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 31/12/2019</td>
<td>(51,231)</td>
<td>(42,363)</td>
<td>(93,594)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Depreciation</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 1/1/2019</td>
<td>$51,231</td>
<td>42,363</td>
<td>$93,594</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charge for the year</td>
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<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deductions</td>
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<td>(93,594)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance at 31/12/2019</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
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**NET BOOK VALUE**

- Balance at 31/12/2019: $720
- Balance at 31/12/2018: $720

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. PREPAYMENT &amp; RECEIVABLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance b/f</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provisions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expensed in Audit</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Human Rights DfY (VII)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance C/f</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. CASH AT BANK AND ON HAND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank Commercial D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank ROSU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank ALCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank ORBS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank PIRAGHANA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank on Royal Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank on INTERN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank on Operation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank ORB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank ROB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash on Hand (MOH)/ORBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank AKO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank GID</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash on Hand</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. GRANT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2019**
## HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5. ACCRUALS</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance b/f</td>
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<td>10,913</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payments</td>
<td>(10,630)</td>
<td>(10,913)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viva</td>
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<tr>
<td>StarGhana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>23,145</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultancy *</td>
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<td>975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit Fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSNIT Tier 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>PAYE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance c/f</td>
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<td>46,630</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6. LOAN</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loan from a Director.</td>
<td>GHS</td>
<td>GHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance B/F</td>
<td>31,190</td>
<td>32,190</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments in the year</td>
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<td>(1,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance C/F</td>
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<td>31,190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>