

**BASELINE STUDY OF OIL AND GAS
COMMUNITIES IN GHANA**

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CBD	Central Business District
DCE	District Chief Executive
GH	Ghana
GREL	Ghana Rubber Estate Limited
JHS	Junior High School
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MP	Member of Parliament
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
PHC	Population and Housing Census
PSI	Presidential Special Initiative
RM	Regional Minister
SAEMA	Shama Ahanta East Metropolitan Assembly
SHS	Senior High School

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This report contains the findings of a baseline study conducted in seven (7) oil/gas communities in the Ahanta West District in the Western Region. The study which was commissioned by NETRIGHT and undertaken from April to November 2009 covered the following communities:

- Cape Three Points, Dixcove,
- Miemia,
- Egyambra,
- Achowa,
- Princess Town
- Akwidae

The decision to work in these communities was informed by earlier discussions held with the Ahanta West District Assembly regarding the communities they consider as oil communities in addition to Cape Three Points. These communities therefore will be directly or indirectly influenced by the oil and gas discovery.

The main purpose of the study is to have an understanding of how these communities were prior to the oil discovery and the probable impact of the oil and gas discovery and production on the communities, with particular emphasis on women and their access to land. Specifically, the study examined livelihood activities of women prior to the oil exploration and the likely effects of this on the livelihoods of the indigenous people, particularly women.

There made an attempt to gauge women's expectation of the oil and gas discovery as part of the baseline study.

1.1.1 Background

In 2007, Cosmos Company which was prospecting for oil in Ghana announced striking significant quantities of crude oil at Cape Three Points of the Western Region of the country. Cape Three Points is a small fishing community in the Western Region but popularly known for being the Western Cape along the shores of the country. The news sent joyous feelings across the length and breath of the nation. The discovery hit the headlines in a number of newspapers, and suddenly became the major point of discussion among both public and private organisations, particularly non-governmental organisations and among academics, some of who are conscious of the effects and impact of oil discoveries on the poor and marginalised. Many Ghanaians, especially communities where the oil had been found suddenly pinned all their hopes in the new-found natural resource. They were hopeful that the discovery will provide the country the means to escape poverty and place it on an unimpeded path to accelerated economic growth and development.

Undoubtedly, any oil producing country has great potentials for growth and development if the oil revenue is properly managed. Countries that have done this have derived incredible benefits. These countries have succeeded in using the oil wealth to transform their economies. They have built roads, hospitals, power dams, schools, and many more. These measures have resulted in the springing up of a variety of industries contributing to the growth of such countries.

The above case however does not apply to all oil producing nations. Whilst some countries have profited immensely, others have had their circumstances worsened, indicating that Ghana could fall a victim of such eventualities other countries have suffered from if efforts are not made right from the commencement of the exploration to put measures in place to guide against any misuse of the resources and the associated benefits. What comes to mind quickly is the civil strife that usually erupts, a situation not uncommon in many countries in Sub-Sahara Africa.

In some countries within Africa one regrettable consequence of oil production has been the deprivation of the livelihoods of the indigenous people. Indigenes have had their farmlands taken, in many instances unjustifiably by powerful multinationals. Farmlands have been cleared and replaced with physical structures including buildings. Evidence in Ghana shows that food crop farmers are among the poorest people and many of these people are women. The reconnaissance survey for this study has proved this point where the major economic activity in the majority of the oil communities is farming, followed by fishing. Local people in some of these oil countries have therefore been disappointed by the failure of their governments and the oil companies to provide amenities for their communities to mitigate the negative impact of oil exploration on the poor. This baseline study is therefore to provide information that can be used later to guide against some of the negative impacts of the oil exploration that other countries have been experiencing and to create the awareness among the general public and all key stakeholders about the need to protect the vulnerable in the oil project, particularly poor women.

Given other countries negative experiences in relation to oil exploitation, there is the need therefore to take steps to avoid some of these problems surfacing in Ghana. The baseline study was thus conducted to understand the communities prior to the oil discovery and have a picture of some of the issues that may affect these communities on whose lands oil has been found. This will help policy makers in framing the right policies to pre-empt or mitigate some of these negative occurrences that may arise.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the baseline study is to provide a background document that reflects the way in which the discovery of oil in the Western part of the Ghana has transformed the lives of both the rural and urban dwellers in that region. The specific objectives of the baseline study are as follows:

- To examine the impact of the oil discovery on land tenure arrangements.
- To assess the impact of the oil discovery on the livelihoods of fisher folks, farmers and traders.

- To examine the changes in infrastructure
- To identify emerging social problems
- To understand the actors in and decision-making processes regarding the distribution of royalties
- To establish women's perspectives on the prospects and problems that the oil discovery brings
- To draw out the gender dimensions of the issues above focusing on both processes and differential impacts.

1.3 Methodology

The above objectives suggest a very elaborate baseline study, which also require employing a variety of methodological approaches in collecting data. Thus, the study went through a number of research methodological steps to arrive at the data presented in the report. This is elaborated below.

1.3.1 Research Design

A number of research questions were developed to form the starting point of the study. In view of the objectives of this research, it became necessary for a reconnaissance survey to be conducted which took the form of a familiarization tour of the communities and the district. Informal interviews were conducted and discussions held with the District Chief Executive and other staff of the Ahanta West District Assembly, opinion leaders in the communities and community members. A questionnaire was later designed to address the objectives of the study. This was pre-tested to assess the relevance, validity and the understanding of respondents as well as the general availability of the various categories of information needed. The outcome of this pre-test enabled a proper review of the questionnaire to accommodate the lessons gathered from the survey (refer to Appendix 2).

1.3.2 Study Population

The targeted population for the study included representatives of groups and a section of community members including chiefs and Assemblypersons.

1.3.3 Sampling Method

The purposive sampling technique was employed in the selection of communities for the survey and based on information provided by the Ahanta West District Assembly about oil communities in the district. Interviewees were selected randomly from the communities, but ensuring that the minimum number acceptable statistically was attained. Thus at least 32 women were interviewed in each of the seven communities.

1.3.4 Data Collection

In order to carry out the above task, a myriad of techniques were employed in information gathering. These are:

- i. Key informant interviews;
- ii. Community Fora;
- iii. Face-to-face interviews using structured questionnaire;
- iv. Review of Medium Term Development Plan document provided by the Ahanta West District Assembly; and
- v. Observations

The list of stakeholders interviewed can be found in Appendices 1.

1.3.5 Questionnaire Interviews

In all 245 questionnaires were administered to women in the seven oil communities.

1.3.6 Focus Group and Group Discussions

In every community, there were at least two focus/group discussions with the youth, women's groups and/or the traditional authorities.

1.3.7 Data Analysis

The Statistical Package for Social Scientist (SPSS) was used in analysing the data after a careful cleaning was done.

1.4 Organisation of the Report

Chapter one of this baseline study presents the introduction to the study. This includes the research background, the methodology adopted and sampling techniques employed. Chapter two presents the background of the study district and communities. It briefly presents the physical and socio-economic characteristics of Ahanta West District. Chapter three presents the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the respondents while chapter four presents the awareness level of the respondents about the oil and gas discovery. It discusses the source of awareness creation and knowledge about the oil and gas discovery. Chapter five also presents what the respondents think will be the impact of the discovery on women's access to land. The last chapter presents the expectations of the respondents from the view point of the communities and themselves. It also discusses a few recommendations. The chapter ends with a conclusion.

CHAPTER TWO BACKGROUND OF THE AHANTA WEST DISTRICT

2.0 Introduction

Chapter two presents the background of the district where the oil has been discovered. It presents the physical, demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the district, which are all relevant in understanding the district.

2.1 Location of the Ahanta West District and Cape Three Points

The Ahanta West District is situated in the most southern point of the country and the entire West African Sub-Region with its capital as Agona Nkwanta, also known as Agona Ahanta.

The Ahanta West District lies between latitude 4^o.45”N and longitude 1^o.58”W. The district is bounded on the east by the Shama Ahanta East Metropolitan Assembly (SAEMA), on the west by the Nzema East District, the north by Mpohor Wassa West District and the Gulf of Guinea to the south (Ahanta West District Assembly, 2008). The Ahanta West District has a total land area of 591 square kilometres and is occupied by 95,140 people according to the 2000 Population and Housing Census Report. The district is about 15 minutes drive from the commercial capital of the Western Region, Takoradi and about 25 minutes drive from the administrative capital, Sekondi and approximately 25 kilometres from the central business district of Takoradi. The district therefore depends on the regional capital for most of its economic and commercial activities.

2.2 Physical Features

The district generally has a flat landscape with a few isolated hills at Butre and Bansa with heights ranging between 20 to 40 meters above sea level between Cape Three Points and Princess Akatekyi. It is very common therefore to find many of the communities, such as Princes Town, flooded during the rainy season. There is also a plateau at Egyambra. The coastline has features like capes and bays especially at Cape Three Points.

The largest river in the district is the Butre, which enters the sea at Butre. Aside River Butre, there are other rivers like Whin, Suoni, Nyila and Yani. There are also a number of lagoons such as Ehonle, Mabowodindo, Akpluho, Mfuma and Nana Pete at Butre in the district.

Generally, the soils of the district are very fertile and their types range from loose sand to clay. They are suitable for crops ranging from forest to savannah crops such as cocoa, coffee, citrus, oil palm, maize, vegetables, sugar cane, legumes, and rubber.

2.3 Demographic Characteristics

With reference to the 2000 Population and Housing Census (PHC 2000), Ahanta West District population as at 2000 was 95,140. The current population growth rate of the district is 3.2% which is the same as the regional population growth rate, but higher than the national growth rate of 2.7%. Based on this growth rate, the 2006 population was estimated at 115,276 and the projected population at the end of 2009 was 126,890.

There is internal migration going on in the district. It was noted that communities with less economic activities migrate to those that have better economic activities. Thus, it is common to find, for example, people migrating from Busua community to Dixcove to engage in fishing activities because Busua is not noted for fishing. Similarly, some people, particularly the men have migrated out of the community to go into fishing in other communities or countries such as Shama or Cote d'Ivoire, respectively. Migration within and outside the district is seasonable.

The population figures provided by the Ahanta West District Assembly is shown in the pyramid in Figure 2.1 gives the detailed age and sex distribution of the people in the district.

TABLE 2.1: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY AGE/SEX

AGE GROUP (YRS)	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% OF POPULATION
0 – 14	19,751	20,771	40,522	42.60
15 – 64	23,663	26,075	49,738	52.28
65 ⁺	1,986	2,892	4,878	5.12

Source: Ahanta West District Assembly, 2009

Table 2.1 shows that there are more women in the district than men. This follows the normal trend in Ghana and which has implication for the women particularly with the advent of oil discovery in the district. The pyramid also shows that the youth are more than the adults, which again has implication for employment in the oil communities. The most populated communities in the district are Apowa, Agona, Abura, Dixcove and Ewusiejoe (Ahanta West District Assembly, 2008). Other settlements are sparsely populated, including Cape Three Points and some of the other areas likely to benefit from the oil prospects. These are Akwidae, Egyambra, Miemia Achowa and Princess Town. The average household size is about 4.1 and the population density is about 161 persons per square kilometre.

The ethnic group of the district is Ahantan and the main language spoken is Ahanta. Aside the major languages, other languages spoken are Evaluate (Egyambra, Princess Town and Princess Aketakyi) and Fante (Adjua, Funkoe, New Amanful and Dixcove).

2.4 Economic Activities in the District

The main economic activity in the district is farming, followed by fishing. Other economic activities common in the district are petty trading, agro-based industries, hairdressing, dressmaking, furniture manufacturing, block-making and auto-mechanic. The major production centres (mainly for fish and foodstuffs) include Bansa, Apemenim No.1, Akwidae, Dixcove, among others. Dixcove is popular for its tuna fishing industry.

2.4.1 Farming

Farming is by far the major economic activity undertaken in the district. It is estimated that about 65% of the economically active population is currently employed in the agriculture sector. With an arable land of about 350sq.km, generally favourable weather, good soil and a large rural population, the district possesses the requisite conditions conducive for agricultural development. Oil palm and rubber are the major cash crops in the district. Food crops like cassava, maize, plantain, vegetables also thrive well in the district. Many of the farmers, however, are small holders and are therefore unable to cultivate crops on a large scale. The average farm size per farmer is 0.35 hectares. This is an indication that farmers in these communities have very little control over land.

2.4.2 Fishing

People living along the coastal areas in the district are predominantly into fishing. Dixcove, which is one of the oldest fishing communities, for instance, is noted in the Western Region for its catch in sharks, tuna and lobsters. Other notable fishing communities include Achoawa, Miemia, Butre, Aketakyi, Akwidae, Adjua, Egyambra and Cape Three Points. The participation of local people in fishing activities has gone down from 30% to 25% (Ahanta West District Assembly, 2008). This downward trend is as a result of formal education being acquired by the people. Besides, an interview with some fishermen, including the chief fisherman of Dixcove indicated that fishing is becoming very expensive and therefore a capital intensive venture because the fishermen no longer fish in the shallow sea waters around their communities since the fish stock in such waters have been depleted. Instead, they now engage in deep sea fishing far away from their communities and those without a large capital are unable to go into it because they now sail far offshore and stay away for at least five days to enable them make a good catch.

2.4.3 Tourism Development

The district has great potential for tourism; cultural and historical due to its background of early contact with the whites who have left behind historical forts and castles. There are also good beaches in the district. Communities like Pumpunie (where the proposed oil refinery is going to be situated), Adjua, New Amanful, Busua, Miemia, Princess Town and Cape Three Points have some of the finest beaches like Monica Beach, Victoria Beach, Busua Beach, among others, in the country.

2.4.4 Industries

There are two major agro-based factories, namely NORPALM and GREL, which have large hectares of oil palm and rubber plantations, respectively. NORPALM and GREL employ considerable number of the youth in the district. GREL alone employs about 2,500 people whereas NORPALM employs 1,500. In terms of industries therefore, the district can be rated as far better than others in the country that are without industries which can generate employment.

2.5 Socio-Economic Characteristics of Surveyed Communities

2.5.1 Education

All seven communities have at least a basic school from which the children within the community attend school. Miemia however has no JHS and none of the communities has a Senior High School. Children who complete their Junior High School education further their education at the senior school level in places like Agona Nkwanta and Takoradi. It was observed that the absence of adequate Senior High Schools in the district has made it difficult for many of the youth to appreciate the need to continue their education beyond basic school. Consequently, the many of them see completion of the basic education as the ultimate in education and therefore to not work hard to enter into Senior High Schools.

2.5.2 Water and Sanitation

Generally the sanitation in all communities visited was poor. The communities get flooded during the rainy season and dusty during the dry season. No drainage facility exists in the communities visited. Miemia and Achoawa (near the sea) communities, for instance, have no toilet facilities. The toilet facilities in the other communities like Princess Town (Prusi) are woefully inadequate and also bad in state. The community members have therefore resorted to defecating along the beaches. Some of the communities do have boreholes and pipe-borne water but are not adequate to cater for the growing population. For example, one of the two pipe-borne water facilities for the people of Miemia was out of order putting excessive pressure on the one left.

2.5.3 Livelihoods

Livelihood activities in these oil communities are mainly farming and fishing. Dixcove, which is one of the oldest fishing communities, for instance, is noted within the Western Region for its catch in sharks, tuna and lobsters. Many of the women in the communities are involved in petty trading whilst others work as labourers at construction sites during the lean fishing season. Some also work as porters during a bumper fishing harvest. They carry the fish from the seaside to the houses of those who have bought it. This is done as a secondary occupation by some of the women.

2.5.4 Associations

There exist a number of associations in almost all the communities the team visited. They include youth, women, farmers and fishermen's associations. These are very small local associations that are more concerned with welfare issues of members. They support any member that is bereaved socially and financially, which forms their core function.

2.5.5 Land

Even though there are actual owners of land, such as the Ahantas and the Nzemas in the communities, both indigenes and settlers, including women, do have access to land. In Achoawa community for instance, most women who have acquired land do not have documents to cover their land.

2.5.6 Income Levels

The income levels of inhabitants in the district have significantly improved across board from GH¢60 to GH¢90 per annum (Ahanta West District Assembly, 2008). This improvement can be attributed to access to credit, marketing opportunities and small scale processing of farm produce such as oil palm, cassava, sugar cane as well as extension services provided by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA).

CHAPTER THREE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

3.0 Introduction

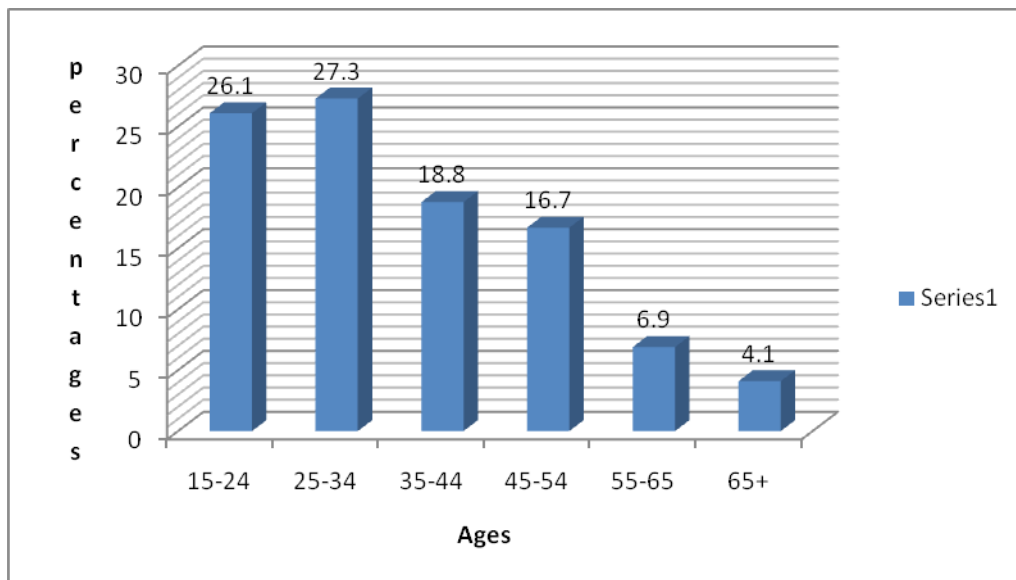
Chapter three presents the findings of data gathered on the socio-economic background of the women in the communities studied. The chapter discusses the age, educational background, marital and occupational status of the respondents.

3.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

3.1.1 Age of respondents

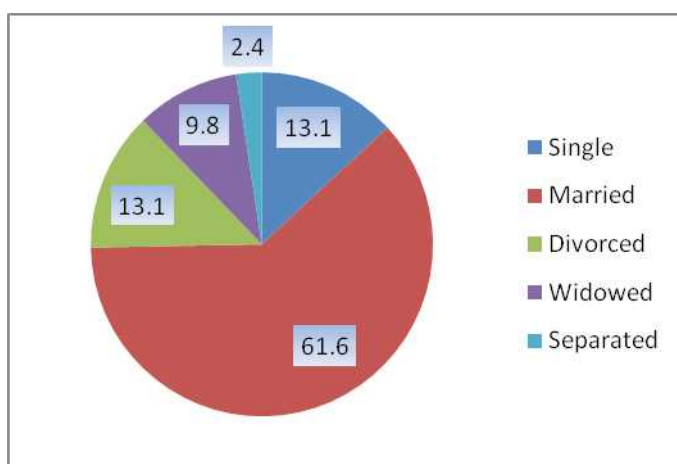
The study covered women of different age groups. The views expressed therefore reflect those of the women interviewed but not those of a particular age group. A large proportion (72.2%) of the women interviewed was within the age bracket of 15-44 years and was actively engaged in various forms of economic activities as shown in Figure 3.1. Only about 4% of the women were 65 years or older and are not likely to engage in any viable economic activity and therefore will be dependent on the active labour force.

FIGURE 3.1: AGE OF RESPONDENTS



3.1.2 Marital Status

Figure 3.2: Marital Status



The majority (61.6%) of the women interviewed are married. There is, however, a sizeable proportion (38.4%) of females who head their households. These are single women, divorcees and widows. The oil and gas exploration could present a challenge to the women heads

of households in the oil communities if they would have to forfeit their land as a source of livelihood in a social and economic environment that is likely to change over time as a result of the oil discovery. This change could bring an untold hardship to these women as they may have to shift from their current livelihood activity for another to cater for their families, which could become a problem since evidence from above shows the weak educational background of these women and the kind of livelihood activities that exist in the oil communities. With the low educational background it is not likely that a change in livelihood activity would be easy for the women in the oil communities, particularly when they cannot be employed in the formal sector even if more jobs are created in these communities.

3.1.3 Number of children

Table 3.1 below shows the number of children the respondents have. 85 percent of the respondents have children and 31 percent of them have 3 to 4 children.

TABLE 3.1: NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Number of Children		
Category	Frequency	Percentages
None	26	11%
1-2	71	30%
3-4	72	31%
5-6	58	25%
6+	8	3%
Total	235	100

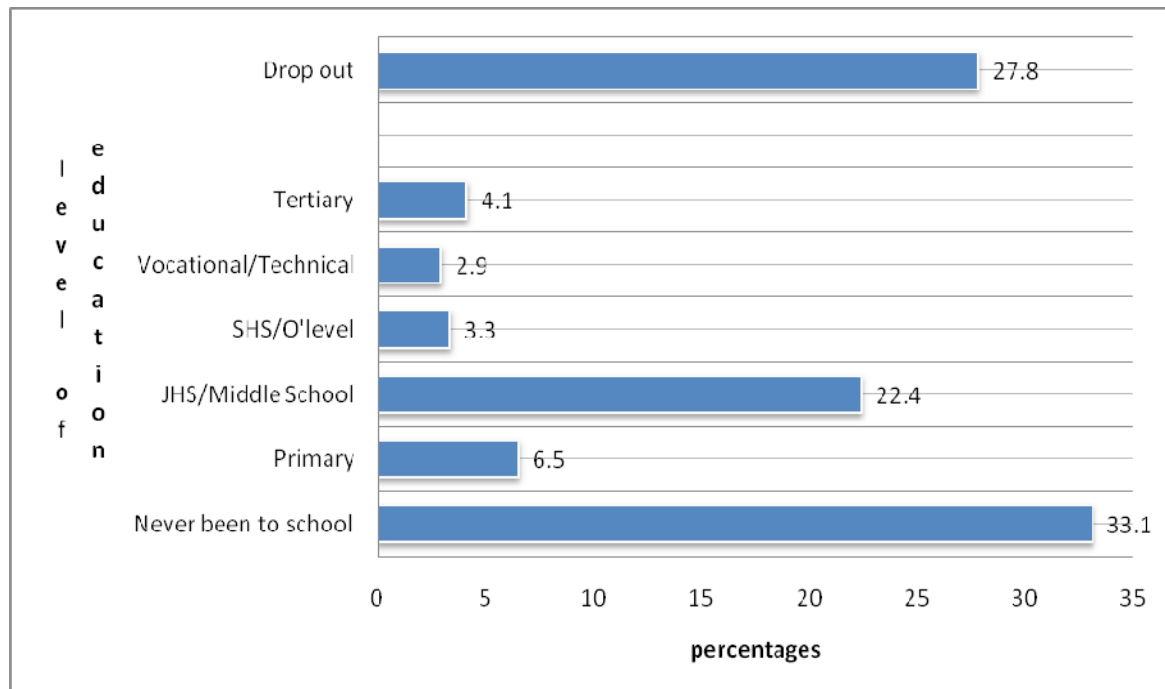
Source: Field Data, 2009

not have biological children, the majority of the women interviewed have the responsibility of looking after children.

3.1.4 Highest Educational Level of Respondents

Figure 3.3 depicts the various levels of education attained by the respondents. The figure shows that only 28.9 % of the women have had basic education. Also, less than half of the women interviewed (33.1%) have never been to school and only 4.1 % of them have obtained tertiary education. It is worth noting that 27.8% of them are school drop outs. Most of the drop out cases occurred at the primary and JHS/Middle level. With the fairly large proportion of women without formal education, their chances of getting employed in a formal sector such as in the oil industry is limited. Besides they chances of given the best to their children is also limited because evidence has shown that educated women are able to provide better health care for their children.

FIGURE 3.3: HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS



3.1.5 Residential Status of Respondents

The report shows that 68.2 percent of the women hailed from communities in which they reside and the remaining 31.8 percent are those who reside in communities other than

where they come from (refer to Table 3.2). For the latter group the factor that explains it is inter-ethnic marriages and economic activities which have caused people to move out of their original communities of birth.

TABLE 3.2: INDIGENE OF COMMUNITY OF RESIDENCE

Status	Frequency	Percent
Indigene	167	68.2
Non indigene	78	31.8
Total	245	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2009

3.1.6 Occupational type of self employed women

Of the 245 women interviewed, 85 percent said they are self-employed (refer to Figure 3.4) and are into petty trading, farming, fish mongering and other insignificant forms of informal employment. It was noted that there are not many opportunities outside the traditional employment forms for women in Ghana that are found in the communities. The dominant employment forms for women in the study communities are petty trading, food crop farming, fish mongering and food vending which are typical informal economic activities in Ghana. A few other economic activities identified include dress making and hair dressing but these normally form an insignificant proportion of occupations women are engaged in. About 30 percent and 32.7 percent of the women are into farming and petty trading, respectively. For those who do petty trading the commodities traded in are mostly food stuffs (both cooked and uncooked).

As fishing communities, one would have expected that many of the women will be engaged in the fishing industry but surprisingly, only 14.4 percent of the women are into the fishing industry, of which 13.9 percent are fish mongers and 0.5 percent works as labourers who carry the fish for the fish mongers from the seaside to their workplace. The above confirms the data from the Ahanta West District Assembly. The women whose work is to carry fish are the most vulnerable women in the fishing communities. They however do this work as a secondary occupation with the first being farming for many.

The above suggests that the main livelihood resource for the majority of women in the oil communities is land, which they could easily lose to physical development when the oil industry begins to boom.

FIGURE 3.4: EMPLOYMENT STATUS

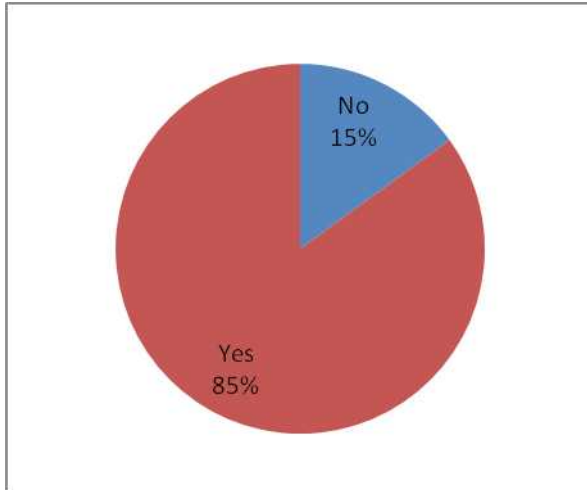
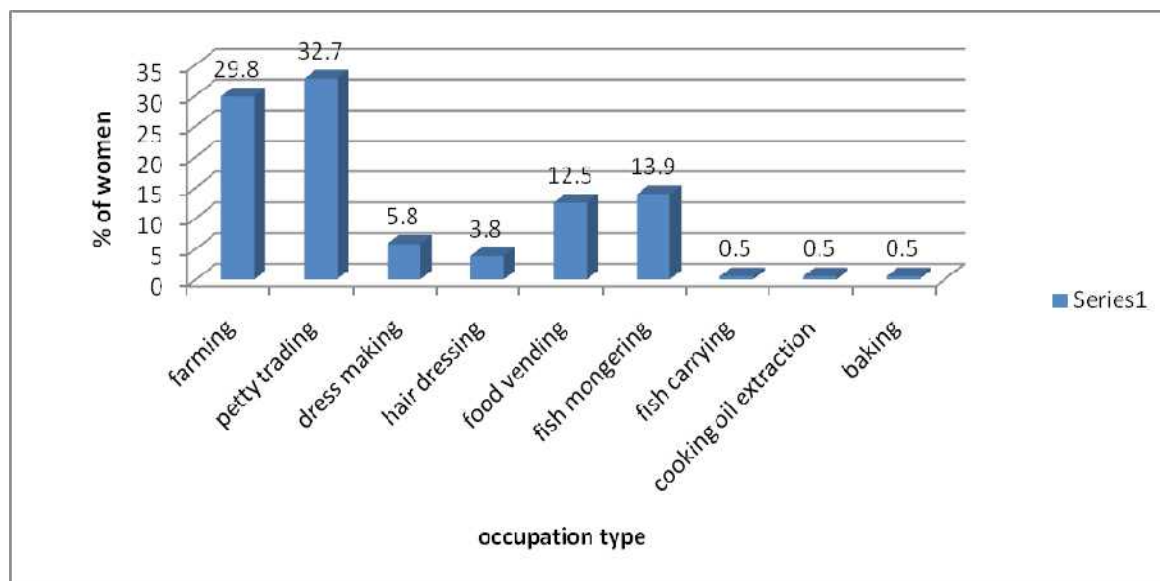


FIGURE 3.5: OCCUPATIONAL TYPES OF SELF EMPLOYED WOMEN



Source: Field data, 2009

Since reliance on single livelihood source usually earns women meager incomes to meet all their needs and those of other members of their households, many of them resort to additional income generating activities to supplement their income. Where the household is a female-headed one, the inspiration to look for an alternative job is rather intensified. Some women try to juggle farming with petty trading. A cross tabulation of main and secondary occupations of the women showed that about 13 percent of the women have farming as their secondary occupation (about half of who - 6.1 percent - are into petty trading), while 8.6 percent, 5.3 percent and 3.2 percent have petty trading, fish mongering and food vending, respectively, as their secondary occupation. Engaging in double jobs therefore appears to be a coping strategy for many of the women in the oil communities and an indication of the survival strategies many of them adopt.

A proportion of 40.5 percent of the women who are not self-employed (i.e. 15% of the 245 women) and also not employees of formal institutions depend on their relatives for support. This group is mainly made up of the aged who are too frail to work.

**TABLE 3.3: WOMEN’S SURVIVAL STRATEGIES
OTHER THAN SELF EMPLOYMENT**

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Teaching	14	37.8
Nursing	1	2.7
Apprentice	5	13.5
Company employee	1	2.7
Depend on relative	15	40.5
Labourer	1	2.7
Total	37	100

Source: Field Data, 2009

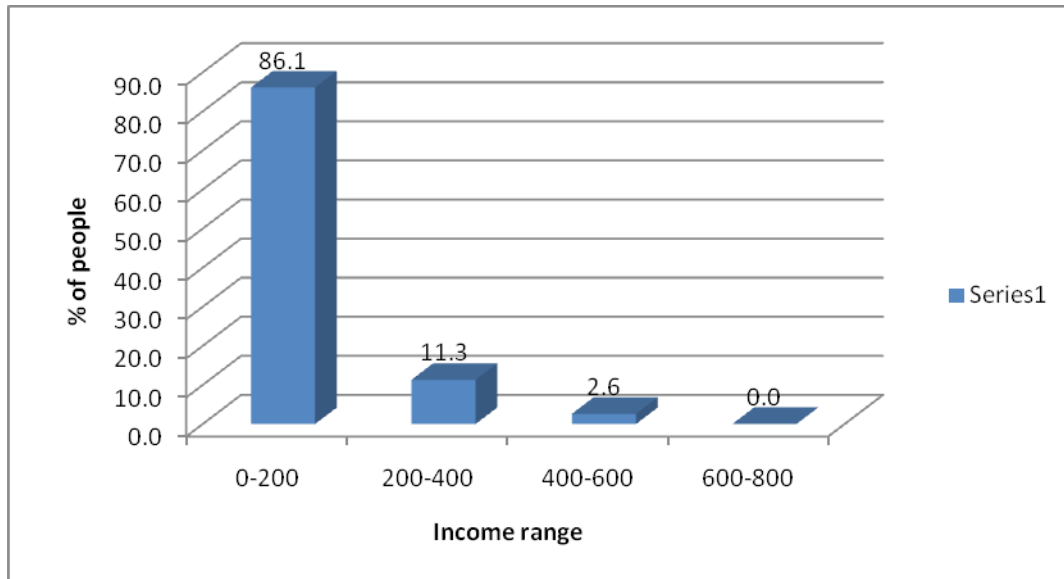
3.1.7 Other forms of Employment

There is a reasonable proportion (15.1%) of women who fall outside the category of the self-employed in the communities studied. These are employees of the formal sector such as teachers, nurses, apprentices and employees of organizations. A further probe into their place of origin indicates that many of these women are posted to these communities as employees and therefore they do not necessarily originate from the study communities.

3.1.8 Monthly Incomes of Women

Most of the women (86.1%) earn a monthly income that does not exceed GH¢200. This is given the kind and scale of jobs (farming, petty trading, dress making, etc) they do in their various communities. These jobs are usually done at a subsistence level, on small scales with little or no capital support as well as no modern technological adoption. Limited access to credit coupled with a lack of skills attributable to low level of formal education accounts for this problem. Only 2.6 percent of the women interviewed earn incomes between GH¢400-600. According to the data, no woman earns a monthly income above GH¢600. Compared to a minimum wage of GH¢3 in Ghana, it is implied that many of the women (86.1%) earn below the minimum wage in the country.

FIGURE 3.6: MONTHLY INCOMES OF WOMEN



3.1.9 Women Breadwinners of their Households

The data presented in the table underscores the fact that a woman is indispensable in the up-keep of the household. Women continue to play a key role in the survival of their households even when their husbands are alive and working. They provide support ranging from feeding the family to financing children’s educational needs such as books, pens and uniforms. Figure 3.2 shows that about 62 percent of the women are married but not all of them have their husbands providing the necessary support for the upkeep of their families. The pressure of looking after the household drives them to overstretch themselves by way of doing several jobs. Table 3.4 however shows that some of these women (39 percent) are the breadwinners of their households and so the importance of women in sustaining the household in the study communities cannot be underestimated.

TABLE 3.4: WOMEN BREADWINNER OF THEIR HOUSEHOLDS

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	97	39.6
No	148	60.4
Total	245	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2009

CHAPTER FOUR

AWARENESS AMONG WOMEN ABOUT THE OIL DISCOVERY

4.0 Introduction

This chapter seeks to find out the extent to which women in the oil communities are aware and have been sensitised about the oil discovery and its implication for them. The chapter explores the knowledge the women have about the oil discovery and the source of the information. Further, the chapter tried to understand from the women what they think would be the impact of the oil discovery on various stakeholders in the communities as well as themselves.

4.1 Awareness among Women about the Oil Discovery

From the survey results shown in Figure 4.1, 95.9 percent of the women interviewed are aware of the oil discovery in Ghana. This widespread awareness is attributed largely to the huge media attention that the oil find has had in the country. The media in the last decade or so have been effective means of information dissemination in the country.

It was noted that knowledge about the oil discovery came from various sources. In some communities oil experts and government officials visited them to brief the people on the oil discovery and the potential benefits to their communities. In Figure 4.2, about 37 percent of the women were of the opinion that the oil discovery means that their community will experience development. Another 35.6 percent are aware that when oil production starts employment opportunities would be generated. There are some of the women (20.7 percent) whose knowledge about the oil discovery borders on negative impressions, such as environmental pollution (5.3 percent), relocation of community (3.2 percent) and restriction on fishing activities (12.2 percent). These are women who were sensitised by NGOs concerned about the environmental impact of the oil discovery. Thus the level of knowledge about the oil discovery and its impact depends on who does the awareness creation in the communities.

FIGURE 4.1: AWARENESS ABOUT OIL DISCOVERY

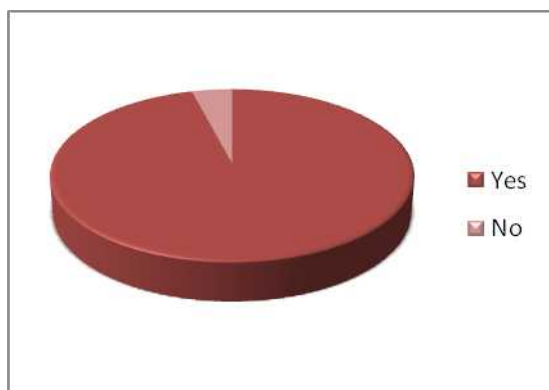
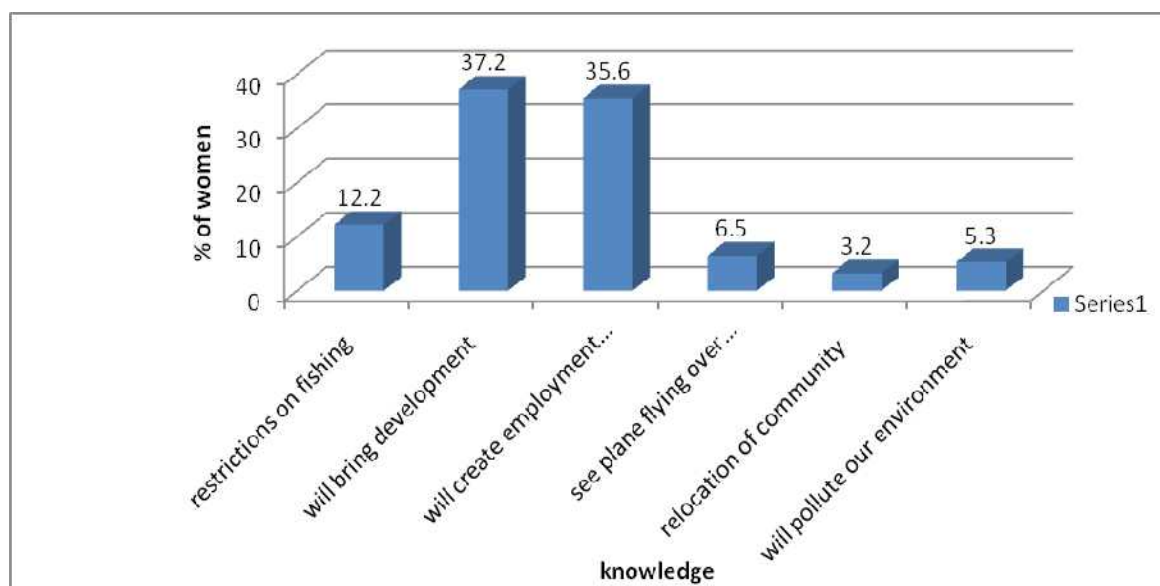


FIGURE 4.2: KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE OIL DISCOVERY



Source: Field data, 2009.

The 12.2 percent of the women who mentioned restrictions imposed on the activities of fishermen in the sea said they are aware that fishermen have been told to stay away from the oil rig but did not know the reason behind this decision.

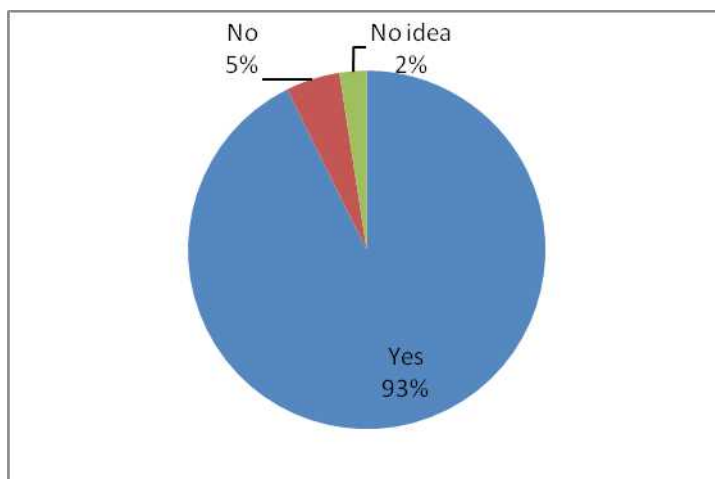
4.2 Possible Impacts of Oil Production on the Lives of Women

In an attempt to find out about the possible impacts of the oil production on the lives of the women specifically and the entire community generally, the data show that there is high expectation among them of potential increases in petty trading and service provision. With a reasonable proportion (32.7%) of the women being traders, one can understand

their desires to make more sales. The women expect the influx of people to create a large customer base for the items they sell. Some of the women, especially the aged however, feel that they are too frail and also lack formal education to stand any chance of getting employed and therefore do not entertain any hopes of working in the oil companies. Such people are however hopeful that their children will find jobs in the oil companies. They reckon that once their children are employed the benefits will extend to them.

As to whether the oil and gas discovery will have any impact on their personal lives, an overwhelming 93 percent of the women responded in the affirmative as shown in Figure 4.3 while 5 percent are of the view that it will make no impact on their lives and an insignificant 2 percent had no idea about the impact the oil discovery could make in their lives.

FIGURE 4.3: IMPACT OF OIL DISCOVERY ON THE INDIVIDUAL LIVES



Probing further the nature of the possible impact of the oil and gas discovery in the lives of these women, many of them mentioned various things that they think could be possible impacts as shown in Table 4.1. The general perception of the majority of the women (80.9 percent) has been very positive because they are expecting that the oil and gas discovery will boost their livelihood activities and increase incomes. Many of them however, fail to link the oil and gas discovery to the resource base of their livelihoods (such as land) which will now be under pressure from the oil companies. A few of them felt the impact will not be positive. For example, an insignificant proportion of the women (2 percent) felt the

discovery will increase cost of living in their communities while 1.2 percent are of the view that they could loss their farmlands.

It was noted that the responses provided by the women were based on the source of their knowledge on the oil and gas discovery. Those who on one hand, have been visited by NGOs have been made to see the oil and gas discovery not only from the positive aspects but also the negative implications for their lives and communities. Some of the NGOs who have visited and worked with the communities include Friends of the Earth from Takoradi. For these women therefore, they are aware of some of the dangers. On the other hand, those who have had contact with government officials and the oil companies are made to see only the good side of the oil discovery, which includes the job creation for the communities and infrastructure provision. This unbalanced information about the oil and gas discovery for these women could send wrong signals if not corrected because the background data above shows that these women are vulnerable and therefore believe whatever information they are provided.

TABLE 4.1: NATURE OF POSSIBLE IMPACTS OF OIL DISCOVERY ON WOMEN’S LIVES

Impact	Frequency	Percent
Create job opportunities	83	33.1
Boost sales	120	47.8
Increase cost of living	5	2.0
Incentives to retain teachers	3	1.2
Employment in the oil company	15	6.0
Contract diseases	1	0.4
Good marriage	4	1.6
Reduce fish stock	5	2.0
Jobs for children	10	4.0
Get good house to live in after the relocation	1	0.4
Loss of farmland	3	1.2
Scholarship for children	1	0.4
Total	251	100.0

Source: Field data, 2009.

The concern of fish mongers is that the restriction imposed on fishermen is likely to prompt a loss of their livelihoods. Fishermen have been warned to stay a certain distance away from the oil rigs. Interestingly, areas close to the sea are where fish get attracted to. This has resulted in a drop in their catches. A consequence of this is that women have less quantity of fish available to them. This will in no doubt affect their income levels.

4.3 Women's Views on Possible Impacts of Oil Discovery on their Communities

Women have high expectations about the prospects of how the oil and gas production will impact on their communities. 94 percent of them expect the oil and gas production to have positive impacts on their communities while only 2 percent think there will be no impact and 4 percent said they do not know (Figure 4.4). Such high expectations emanate from the many media discussions that have been going on this subject, with some conveying the impression that the oil will create wealth for the communities, irrespectively of requisite skills for possible employment.

In the run up to the 2008 presidential and parliamentary elections many politicians on political platforms made several promises to the communities that should they be voted to power they would ensure that they (communities) benefit greatly from the oil wealth. These promises continue to be heard on the radio stations. Such impressions have fueled the high expectations held by many women. One high expectation shared by the women (40%) is the job opportunities. They are hoping there will be a high clientele base to patronize the goods sold in the communities. Others are of the view that they will be employed to work as cooks, but clearly unmindful of their educational qualifications. Others anticipate an improvement in their social lives and the provision of infrastructure like roads, health facilities, electricity and potable water, among others.

FIGURE 4.4: CHANCES OF POSSIBLE IMPACTS OF OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION ON YOUR COMMUNITY

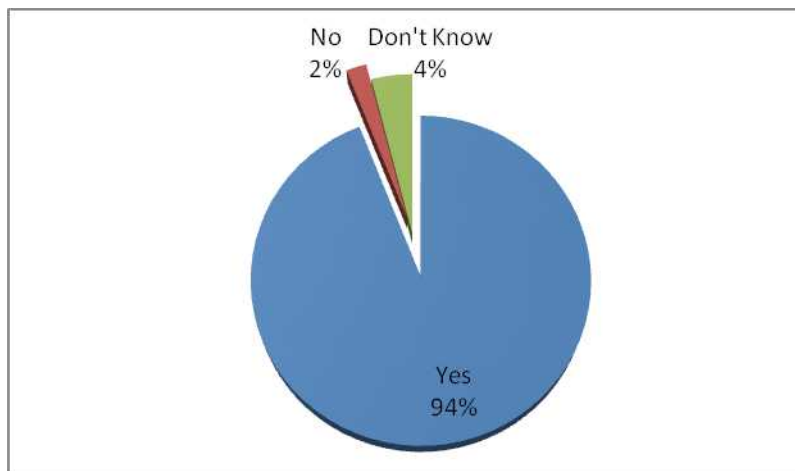
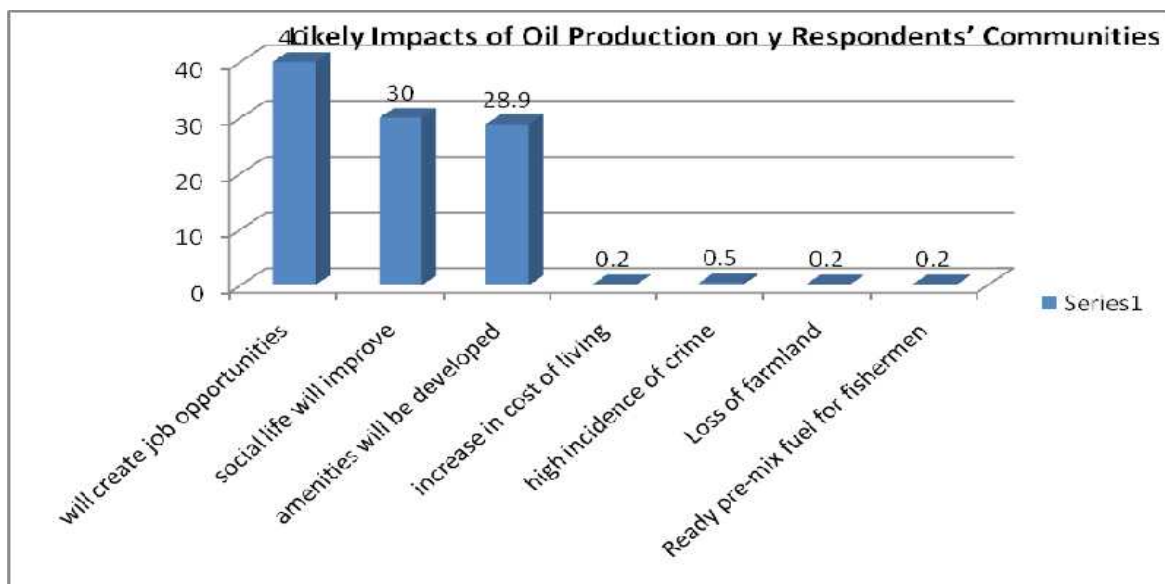


FIGURE 4.5: LIKELY IMPACTS OF OIL PRODUCTION ON RESPONDENTS' COMMUNITIES



4.4 Present Impacts of Oil Discovery on the Jobs of Women

The survey findings further reveal that the oil discovery has impacted on the jobs of a small proportion (14, 5.7%) of women. The majority of the women (89.8%) have not experienced any impacts on their jobs which they can attribute to the oil find. Again, 1.3

percent do not know whether or not the discovery has affected the work they do or not. Another 3.3 percent indicated that they do not work and therefore the question did not apply to them.

For some women the oil discovery has been more of a curse than a blessing. 43 percent of those who have had the oil discovery impacted on thier jobs described such impact as being loss of their farmland since those parcels of land have been sold to the oil companies and other developers. An additional 50 percent who are fish mongers mentioned that as a result of the decline in the quantity of fish fishermen catch, they (women) also get less fish to buy from them than previously (refer to Figure 4.7). Those who have benefitted from the discovery (7 percent) said the volume of their sales has gone up. These people attribute the increases to activities associated with the oil discovery that keeps bringing people to their communities.

FIGURE 4.6: POSSIBILITY OF OIL DISCOVERY AFFECTING WOMEN’S JOBS

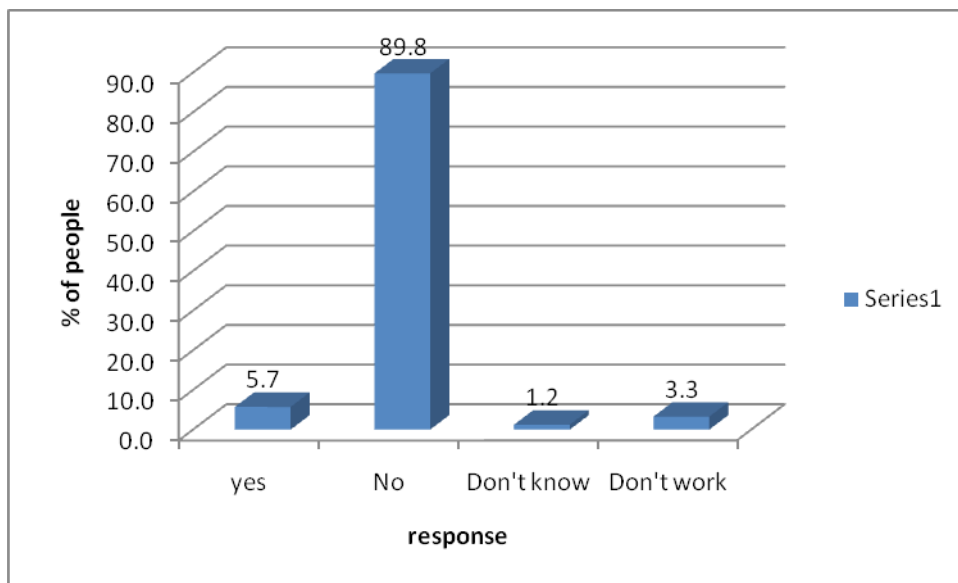
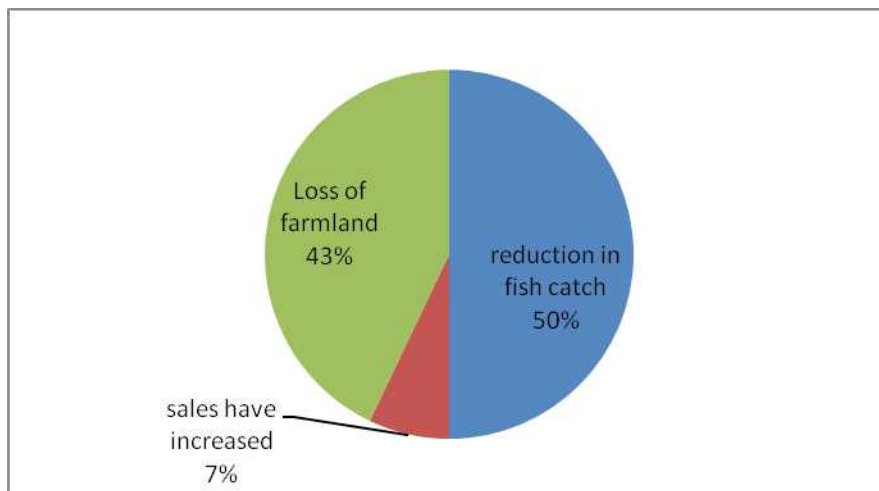


FIGURE 4.7: HOW OIL DISCOVERY AFFECTED WOMEN’S JOBS



4.5 Probable Impacts of Oil Discovery on Women’s Future Jobs

Close to 80 percent of the respondents who are traders indicated that the discovery of the oil was going to increase sales. This was deduced from the fact that most of the oil workers would depend on the services of these traders for their needs. Since women form the majority of these traders, they expect to cash in on the increased population.

A little over 1 percent of the respondents are of the view that with the expected influx of large businesses to the area due to the oil find, many small businesses would collapse to make way for the bigger ones.

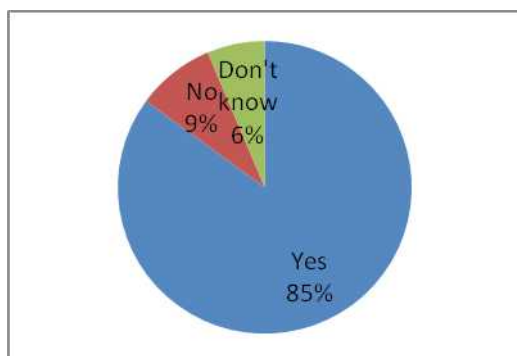
Concern about the loss of farmlands was shared by 10.7 percent of the women. This will deny many of the inhabitants whose daily bread is made from farming. This is going to have serious effects on women farmers. The loss of farmlands would also mean many women who depend on farming will have to look for other opportunities, implying more pressure on fishing, trading, and other businesses. Loss of farmlands could also have a negative effect on how parents would take care of the needs of the children, particularly with regards to education, as many of them depend on incomes from farming to cater for the children. According to the results of the focus group discussions, many of the parents indicated that they are unable to send their children to Senior High Schools because they are unable to afford the fees.

TABLE 4.2 NATURE OF PROBABLE IMPACTS ON JOBS IN THE FUTURE

Nature of impact	Response	Percentage
Increase in sales	149	79.7
Collapse of small businesses due to relocation of big businesses	2	1.1
Drop in the quantity of fish	7	3.7
Loss of farmland	20	10.7
Increase in workload for teachers	2	1.1
Better incentives for teachers	7	3.7
Total	187	100.0

Source: Field data, 2009

FIGURE 4.8: POSSIBILITY OF WOMEN’S JOBS BEING AFFECTED BY THE OIL DISCOVERY



With regards to drop in fish quantity, 3.7 percent of the respondents asserted that the oil discovery would bring about great loss in the quantity of fish. This, they attributed to the sailing restrictions around the oil rigs where majority of fish gather. These are the places fishermen are prevented from going, leaving them with less territory to fish and even lesser quantity of fish to harvest.

About 3 percent of respondents also indicated that they were looking forward to the oil companies coming up with incentives for teachers, such as providing them with accommodation.

CHAPTER FIVE

IMPACT OF OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION ON WOMEN'S ACCESS TO LAND

5.0 Introduction

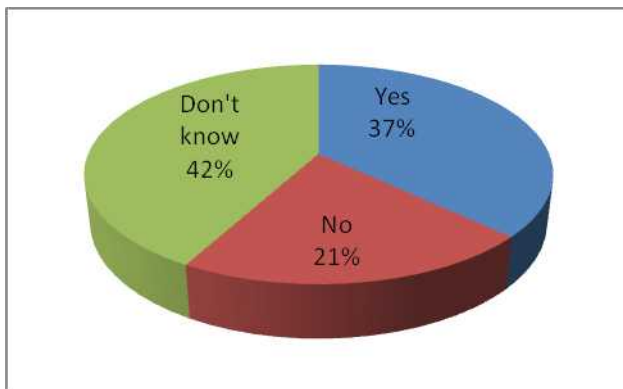
Ever since an announcement of oil discovery was made in Ghana, there have been many people and organisations frantically positioning themselves to make the most of the oil production. Also, since the discovery of the oil, many organisations and institutions in the county, both private and public as well as NGOs have in one way or the other made statements regarding the oil and its revenue. Thus, the interest in the oil discovery and the expectations are very high. This chapter discusses the impact of the oil discovery on women in the oil communities.

5.1 Changes in the Land Market

According to the findings of the survey, 37 percent of the women indicated that there have been changes in the land market (refer to Figure 5.1). 42 percent of the women could, however, not say anything because they did not know about any change in land market in their communities, while 21 percent said it has not changed. According to those who responded in the affirmative, they are aware that their communities have received several offers from very rich people who aspire to set up businesses in their communities. This was confirmed in a number of group and focus group discussions held in the communities, some without the women.

In a group discussion with the youth in Achoawa, it was noted that more than 100 acres of

FIGURE 5.1: CHANGE IN LAND MARKET SINCE DISCOVERY OF OIL



leaders in the community indicated they had no idea about the negotiation and how much was invested in the housing project.

The local people as at the time of the field visit had been prevented from farming on the land sold to Syrus Energy although there was no indication of the commencement of the project. The sale of the 687 acres of land has created dispute between two families who are both claiming the portion of land sold to Syrus Energy and no compensation whatsoever had been paid to the five affected families which of course include women. Some other land acquisitions have also been made by some individuals because the acquisition of land in these oil communities is not restricted to only private companies.

Further, at a group discussion in Princess Town, it was mentioned that a company called Soloma Capita, had acquired 200 acres of land in their community. In some of the communities also, land developers and prospectors had visited them and discussed the idea of acquiring land, but had not gone back to finalise the arrangements prior to this survey.

Nature of Change in the Land Market

Table 5.1 presents the nature of changes in the land market brought about as a result of the oil discovery.

TABLE 5.1 NATURE OF CHANGES IN THE LAND MARKET

Type of change	Frequency	Percent
The prices of land has increased	79	87.8
There is increased demand for land	11	12.2
Total	90	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2009

It is important to note that land is scarce in some of these oil communities (such as Discove) while some are under threat from sea erosion (Discove, Princess Town and Achoawa). Consequently, the sudden high demand for land in these communities will

certainly push land prices up. Evidence from the focus and group discussions show that communities are beginning to lose farmlands to developers and land speculators. The implication of this is that previously cultivated land could now be sold for commercial and residential purposes. At Achoawa where developers have bought some land, the traditional authorities said they will provide alternative farmlands to community members who have been affected by any development. Providing community members with alternative land for farming has implication for distance to farm since the alternative farms will be further away from existing farmlands. Women are those who suffer most when they have to travel longer distance to their farms and to fetch wood fuel. The above is likely to deprive many women of access to farm land.

5.2 Responsibility for Land Allocation

Land allocation in the oil communities is an area that women have no control over. Issues of land are largely the responsibility of traditional authorities; chiefs and their elders. Consequently, about 90 percent of women indicated that the chiefs and their elders solely take responsibility for the allocation of land to developers. An insignificant proportion (3.7 percent) of the women said they have no idea about who gives land in their communities while 4.1 percent said it is the responsibility of the family (refer to Table 5.2). With their lack of control over land allocation, women would probably not have the right to prevent any steps to sell portions of land. This suggests that farmlands could be sold without involving the women.

TABLE 5.2: ALLOCATION OF FARM LAND TO OIL COMPANIES AND OTHER DEVELOPERS

Person/institution	Frequency	Percent
Families	10	4.1
Land owners	3	1.2
Chief only	177	91.0
No Idea	9	3.7
Total	245	100.0

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Source: Field Data, 2009

5.3 Ownership of Land

Regarding ownership of land, the women interviewed held the view that the land belongs to the indigenes. For instance, in communities inhabited largely by Ahantas, like Dixcove, Akwidae and Achowa, the widely held view was that the Ahanta people owned the land. The same could be said for Nzema communities like Cape Three Points, Princess Town and Egyambra (refer to Table 5.3). Ownership of these lands therefore has been a long and on-going debate among these two major ethnic groups dating back to history but for most of the time they tend to live peacefully with each other. As could be expected, however, with value of land going up in these communities as a result of the oil discovery, there could be the likelihood that the ethnic groups will begin talking about ownership of land again. Non-indigenes prefer not to meddle in land issues and shied away from mentioning which particular ethnic groups are the real land owners.

TABLE 5.3: OWNERSHIP OF LAND IN OIL COMMUNITIES

	Frequency	Percent
The Ahantas	118	48.2
The Nzemas	116	47.3
Don't know	10	4.1
Families	1	0.4
Total	245	100.0

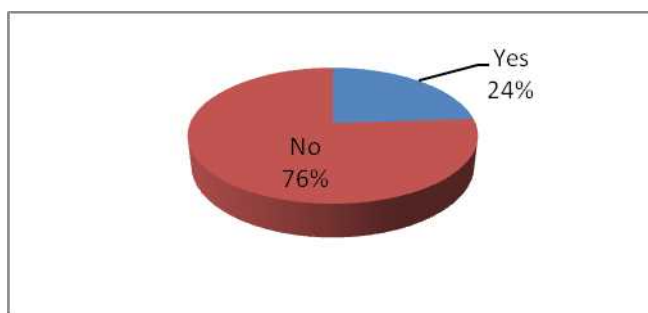
Source: Field Data, 2009

5.4 Women with Title to Land

As it is the case with many communities in developing countries and in particular, Ghana, women rarely have title to land and the situation in the study communities is not different.

Ownership of land as in many parts of the country is largely in the hands of traditional authorities who are expected to hold it in trust for their subjects. From the findings, 76 percent of the women said they do not own land (refer to Figure 5.2) but have access to family land for farming. The families are allocated land by the traditional authorities, which make it possible for adult family members to have access to land. The study shows that 66.5 percent of the respondents said their families have land and the rest said the contrary.

FIGURE 5.2: WOMEN'S OWNERSHIP OF LAND



The remaining women (24 percent) said they own land which they acquired themselves or was given to them by their families as gifts. About 76 percent of those who own land are using it for farming while a few (about 19 percent) have used it for residential purposes. The rest have not put it to any use as at the time of the survey.

5.5 Size of land owned

Family members, irrespective of the sex, have access to family land for farming and this land reverts to the pool once one dies. The allocation is however the prerogative of men, particularly family elders and the traditional authorities. According to the findings, 87.7 percent of the women who own land have their land sizes ranging from 1-10 acres (refer to Table 5.4). Generally and unlike other countries, women in Ghana have access to land through the family. The issue has been the size of land women have access to because as family size increases without increase in family land, the size of land one is entitled to as family member gets smaller with time.

TABLE 5.4 SIZE OF LAND ONE HAS

Size	Frequency	Percent
1-10 acres	51	87.7
11-20	4	6.9
21+	3	5.2
Total	58	100

Source: Field Data, 2009

5.6 Security of women's land

Figure 5.3 shows that about 97 percent of women felt their land was secure because access to land was through their families and chiefs. It is generally assumed that family land is known to every community member and the tendency to encroach on such land is rare. Further probing however revealed that about 74 percent of those who own land do not have any documentary proofs of their ownership (refer to Figure 5.4) and that the security of their land rests in the family. Others (6.9 percent) are also of the view that belonging to the royal family is enough security of ownership of land. Some of the women (15.5 percent) thought their link with their community chiefs was enough guarantee for the security of their lands but the study shows that the lands that have been sold out so far by the chiefs include some farmlands of community members and therefore this security is not guaranteed. About 48 percent of them also felt their inheritance was enough guarantee of the security of their lands. The lack of foresight to have legal land documents for the reason that it was inherited or family land is a common practice in the country and many of the traditional leaders take advantage of this loose arrangement to sell out community lands. There is also the belief that family lands are not sold and hence, the assurance that the land will always remain a family property. This belief does not encourage the people to acquire legal documents to secure their lands. Acquisition of legal documents to secure ownership of land will now be relevant to avoid a situation of losing land in the advent of the oil discovery.

FIGURE 5.3: SECURITY OF LAND

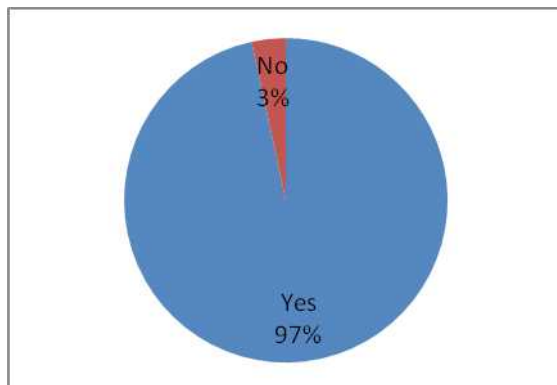
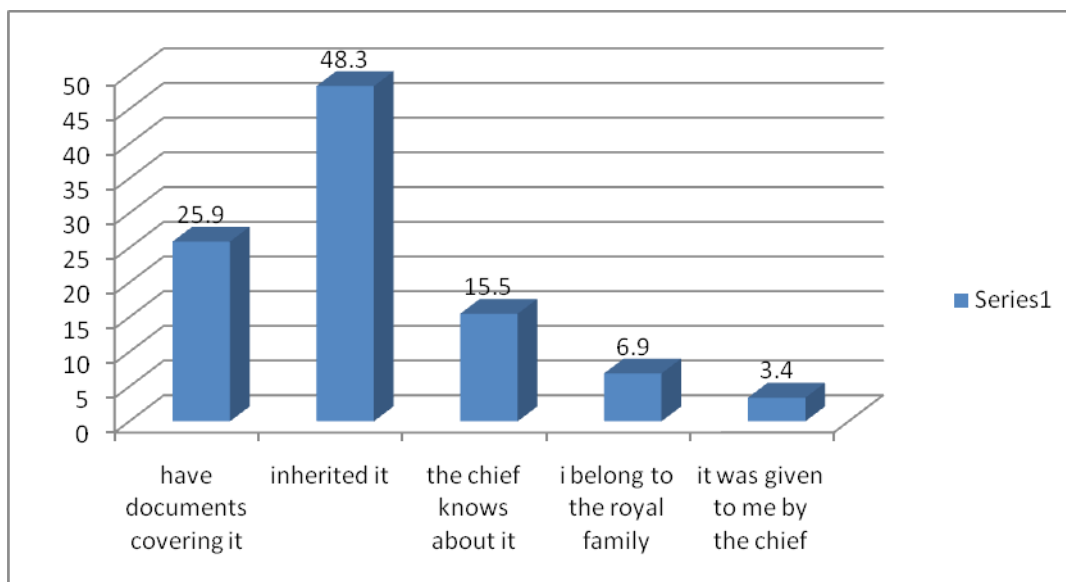


FIGURE 5.4: REASONS FOR ASSUMING LAND BEING SECURED



5.7 Prevalence of Disputes in Oil Communities

Issues of dispute revolving around chieftaincy and land came up in the studies. Of the 32.7 percent of the women who mentioned that there were disputes in their communities, 86.3 percent of them traced the disputes to chieftaincy matters. The parties to such disputes are members of royal families. This point came up strongly in Princess Town, Miemia and Egyambra communities. The data also showed that there are a few inter-family land disputes prevailing in the communities studied.

TABLE 5.5 NATURE OF DISPUTES IN OIL COMMUNITIES

Nature	Frequency	Percent
Chieftaincy	69	86.3
Land	11	13.8
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2009

5.8 Lack of Transparency in Sale of Land

At Egyambra, the community is unaware of land transactions that the chief has contracted because he does not involve other members of their traditional authority. Similarly, the youth at Achoawa said they were not consulted before the land was sold out to private developers. Women's knowledge about and involvement in the sale of land is even worse than that of the youth because women are not involved in land transactions in the communities. Governance is also poor in communities with chieftaincy disputes. Women and the general community are not consulted before major decisions involving the community is taken. Consequently, the women are generally ignorant about what is going on in their communities. It was therefore not surprising when the majority of the women heard about the oil discovery from the media and other people outside their communities. The assemblymen have however worked closely with the community members. They are easily approachable compared to the traditional authority. Thus governance in these communities is better when the assemblymen are the ones that work closely with community members. Women's participation in decision making process in the communities could enhance their knowledge level about issues related to their communities and make them develop interest in it.

5.9 Nature of Relationship between oil companies and communities

The women were asked about the communities' views on the nature of relationship existing between them the oil companies and them. About 2 percent of the women said that the relationship was very good and 30 percent felt that it was satisfactory.

On whether or not the oil companies meet the communities to inform them about their intentions, 52.7 percent indicated that the companies occasionally hold meetings with them to discuss a range of issues. Some of the issues discussed at such meetings include the possibility of the communities seeing infrastructural development, job creation and possible resettlement of some people who might be ejected from where they live. About 36 percent however said that the companies do not meet them. These responses are based on which of the communities the oil companies have selected to work. Thus where the oil companies have little interest, they are likely to have less interaction with them.

TABLE 5.6: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OIL COMPANIES AND OIL COMMUNITIES

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Satisfactory/cordial	112	49.8
Very good	7	2.9
Excellent	1	0.4
Unsatisfactory/Poor	77	31.4
Don't know	38	15.5
Total	245	100.0

Source: Field data, 2009

TABLE 5.7: POSSIBLE MEETING OF OIL COMPANIES WITH THE COMMUNITY

Response	Frequency	Percent
Meet communities	129	52.7
Do not communities	87	35.5
Don't know	29	11.8
Total	245	100.0

Source: Field data, 2009

5.10 Land Prices

Finally, the study tried to find out whether land prices have changed since the oil discovery. The overwhelming response from the women regarding the above issue indicated that prices have not changed. It could also be possible that women are unaware of what is going on in the land market in their communities since they are not involved in decisions regarding land.

CHAPTER SIX

EXPECTATIONS, KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.0 Introduction

The oil communities foresee a very rosy future of their lives and that of their communities. The women have the belief that the new found oil in their communities is the panacea for all their problems. This chapter discusses some of the expectations of the oil communities from the wealth of the oil industry. The chapter discusses the expectations the women have for themselves and those for their communities. These high expectations were conditioned by the fact that they have been provided with a lot of information by many state and non-state officials as well as NGOs on what the oil industry holds for communities and their people.

6.1 Expectations

The communities, from the perspective of the women interviewed, have high expectations of what the oil wealth can and will do for them. Many of the women expect to see considerable improvements in their lives and in the communities. Others envisage their communities as those that possess a wide array of amenities. The expectations of the communities range from employment through infrastructural development, scholarships and many others. Their responses to this question stems from the fact that a lot of promises have been made by the oil companies and government, more especially during the December 2008 election time. More importantly, the communities expect to be the key beneficiaries of the oil wealth. Below are some of the expectations of the women and why they have them.

i) Employment Creation

The hope of the communities is to get employment especially for their youth in the oil and gas industry. In the quest of getting their fair share of the benefits that the oil industry brings, the assemblyman for Miemia and Egyambra communities has sent a few names of some of their youths to the district assembly for employment considerations. Aside the oil industry the communities hope to gain employment in other businesses like aerodrome which hitherto would not have been thought of coming into their communities.

ii) *Increase in Demand for Goods and services*

The majority of the women interviewed are into petty trading in the oil communities. Thus, women currently involved in petty trading are hoping that their customer base would increase as a result of the upcoming oil production that will attract more people to their communities to create a larger consumer market and also for special commodities. The women therefore see the oil production as having a potential indirect benefit for them.

iii) *Electricity*

Some of the oil communities do not have electricity. Cape Three Points as at the time of the field work had electricity poles erected with wires on them but the community was yet to be connected to the grid. According to the community, they were informed that the electrification would be carried out in three phases. The first two phases had been completed and so the people of Cape Three Points are hoping to be connected to the national grid soon, but had no idea as to how soon. This community in 2007 was given a plant by the court which supplied them electricity until it broke down a few months before the study. With this background it is not surprising to have Cape Three Points - the hob of the oil industry - and the other communities expecting the coming of the oil industry to open up their communities for development which goes with the provision of certain basic services.

iv) *Tarred Roads*

It is surprising to find many of the oil communities are without basic infrastructure that can enhance oil production and job creation. With the exception of the road to Dixcove, the roads to the other oil communities are very deplorable, particularly the one to Cape Three Points. Many of the oil communities are along the coast and therefore very low lands and so many of the roads to these communities get flooded during the rainy season. Many of these roads are also not tarred. Princes Town, for example, gets flooded during the rainy season and so is the road to this community. Among the expectations of the women and other community members therefore is to have the roads tarred for them. They expect that the oil companies will construct roads to facilitate their travels in and out of the communities.

v) *Health Facilities*

The need for health facilities was a desire expressed by many women. Some of the communities lack this vital facility and are therefore hoping that with the coming of the oil, the health facilities would be provided in the communities.

Other services that complement the health needs of the people are potable water supply and toilet facilities. Some of the communities lack adequate number of boreholes and in others, while others complained of broken down boreholes. There is also the problem of inadequate or lack of public toilets in the oil communities. Communities along the beach tend to use the beach as their places of convenience in the absence of public toilets. The women therefore expect the oil companies to provide them with additional boreholes and public toilets.

vi) *Scholarships for the Youth in the communities*

Many of the youth in these communities end their education after completion of basic education. The focus group discussions at the community level showed that many of the parents are poor and therefore unable to afford the fee for higher education for their children. According to some head teachers in the basic schools, the performance of the children at school is generally poor because of the little value placed on education in the oil communities. The schools complain of increasing drop outs rates. It was noted that many of the children combine work (assisting their parents to earn income) with schooling and in some cases, parents withdraw their children from school to assist them during peak farming/fishing seasons. Drop-out rate is high among the girls who get pregnant along the way. Thus, educational performance is generally low in all the oil communities visited.

With the issue of low level of educational attainment, the communities are beginning to appreciate to the need for their children to have education if they should be employed in the oil companies. Consequently, the communities are hoping that the oil companies will offer scholarships to their children to enable them seek higher education elsewhere as was done some years ago by the Cocoa Marketing Board.

vii) Skills Development for Artisans

The communities conceded that not all of their children would be able to have formal education to the tertiary institutions. Already some of their children are artisans, which include carpenters, masons, welders and mechanics. The communities are of the hope that the mining companies will provide the opportunity for offering training for artisans such as welders so as to develop and polish their skills to enable them qualify for jobs in the oil industry. They believe if this is done artisans would be placed in a better position to be considered for possible employment in other sectors too.

viii) Sensitization on the impact of the oil and gas discovery

At the back drop of some negative consequences related to the oil industry especially in Nigeria, the communities having been equipped with this information expect the oil companies and the government agencies responsible for educating communities about the impact of oil and gas discovery to sensitize them on possible impacts including the negative impact of the oil on their livelihood to enable them prepare should such things come their way. They mentioned the fact that should there be an oil spillage their livelihood would adversely be affected since that would lead to the lost of aquatic life. Once aquatic life is lost it means they cannot go fishing anymore which would have negative impact on their livelihood and would eventually lead to rise in unemployment. Thus the communities are calling for openness on the part of government and the oil companies.

ix) Credit Facilities

The petty traders in the oil communities expect the oil companies to make credit available for them to enable them expand their economic activities. The women said lack of credit has been the main obstacle in their economic activities. Those into fishing and farming borrow money from their peers at high interest rate to enable them work.

In addition to credit, the women expect that the oil wealth will enable their communities to provide them with decent market stalls where they can carry out their petty trade.

x) Other Expectations

In addition to the above, the women also mentioned the following among their expectations as well as those of the communities from the oil wealth;

- Fishing harbour
- Quarters for teachers and nurses
- Hotels
- Police stations
- Recreational parks
- Incentives for teachers
- Community libraries

Key Findings

The following are some of the key findings of the baseline study that should inform any future intervention to protect women in the oil communities.

i) Transformation in the Oil Communities

Since the oil production is yet to begin, the baseline study shows that there is rarely any transformation in the lives of the oil communities as at now. The baseline study has shown that the impact of the oil exploration is yet to be experienced by the majority of the people in the oil communities. This is because the technology being used for the exploration, the distance of the rig from the people (offshore exploration) and the fact that most of those working on the rig are based in Takoradi, the regional capital and commute to the rig by air makes the project very remote from the local people. These factors make it impossible for anyone to feel the impact of the oil discovery in the oil communities. So far the work of those on the rig has only affected the fishermen who have been warned not to fish within a certain radius from the rig for fear of accidents from the heavy turbines used on

the rig. The fishermen are however concerned that the fish population converge around the rig because of the bright lights that are used on the rig which therefore makes it difficult for them to make any catch. This has therefore reduced fish catch for the fishermen and indirectly affected the fishmongers. It is likely that this issue will go on for as long as oil exploration continues and one would have to find a way of alternative livelihoods for the fishermen or consider relocation.

ii) Sale of Land and Land Tenure

The study however shows that there is sale of land taking place as a result of the oil discovery but this is not widespread in the oil communities and some of the communities have been warned not to sell their lands to developers, which they have adhered to. Interestingly, the majority of the women have no idea about the implication the oil discovery will have on their livelihoods and on land as their main livelihood resource.

Currently, land tenure in the oil communities have not been disturbed and it is not likely that this will be disturbed until the oil boom is on and other industries begin to spring up in the oil communities. The communities, including the women, still have access to land through their families and traditional leaders. These lands are however not covered by any illegal document and therefore cannot be said to be secured in terms of rights. The euphoria about the oil discovery has also not in any way prompted the communities to secure title to their lands because the discovery still remains very remote from the communities for reasons mentioned above. The majority of the women therefore do not see the oil discovery as a threat to their livelihoods if this is explained to them.

iii) Change in Infrastructure

The oil discovery has not brought about any change in the infrastructure in the oil communities. This is partly because those working on the oil rigs have little or no contact with the oil communities as they fly from Takoradi to the rigs. Many of the communities lack basic infrastructure including public toilets, good roads, electricity, boreholes and many more. Cape Three Points, the focus of the oil discovery is worst among the other communities in terms of infrastructure provision. The road to this community is in a very deplorable state and gets flooded during the rainy season. The community has no

electricity and lacks public toilets, among others. The absence of change in infrastructure could also be attributed to the fact that the oil revenue is yet to be realised.

iv) Expectations

The expectations of the communities and women about what the oil revenue can bring to them are extremely high. The communities are hopeful that the oil exploration will transform their lives and their communities. They expect all their negatives to be transformed into positives. Critical among the numerous expectations that were mentioned is the fact that the oil industry will create job opportunities in their communities to employ particularly the youth that are currently unemployed despite their poor educational background and lack of skills. Any intervention therefore will have to address this critical issue to avoid any civil strife.

v) Implication of the Oil Discovery on Gender

Although both men and women will be affected by the oil discovery, the baseline study has shown that women will suffer more and may benefit less from the oil discovery if the benefits are not designed in a way to ensure that they trickle down to the women. The study shows that women are the main breadwinners of their households irrespective of whether they are single or married. The study also shows that the men migrate to other communities or countries in search of alternative livelihoods when things are not going on well for them in their communities, living behind their wives and children.

Women in the oil communities specifically and in Ghana in general normally do not form part of the decision making process in their communities. This study has shown that the women are not aware of the sale of land that is currently going (and the youth are also likely to be kept out of this) because they are never consulted neither do they form part of that decision making process. This therefore makes women more vulnerable in the oil communities and there is the fear that they may not benefit from the oil revenues if they are not factored in the share of the benefits right from the on-start.

vi) Vulnerability of Women in Oil Communities

The study shows that 33 percent of the women studied never went to school and 85 percent of them are self-employed in subsistence economy with the majority of them into

petty trading, farming and fishing. Further, 86 percent of them earn less than 200 Ghana Cedis per month, which is less than the minimum wage in the country. These indicators show that the women in the study communities are poor which also explains why they are unable to afford higher education for their children. For these women therefore, any attempt to deny them of their basic livelihood will be making their situation worse, which needs to be taken into account in any intervention for women in the oil communities.

6.2 Recommendations

Having undertaken this baseline study, there are a few key recommendations that will help in any policy decision to ensure that women in the oil communities do not lose out on the benefits of the oil wealth.

i) Providing a Legal Instrument to Protect Women

As a nation, it will be very important to ensure that there are policies and laws in place prior to the disbursement of the oil revenues to ensure that the benefits from the oil trickle down to the oil communities and how these benefits should be shared so that those who will be made worse off, such as the women are catered for adequately.

ii) Management of expectations

It is abundantly clear in this report that women entertain very high expectations of what the oil companies and government will do for them. These expectations if not fulfilled has the tendency to spark off civil strife in the oil communities as has been experienced in other countries in the sub-region. The youth in some of the communities have indicated their preparedness to take the oil companies to task if they are not considered for job opportunities. Thus the inability to meet some of these expectations could lead to communities rising against the oil companies and government. It is important therefore for these expectations to be managed by letting communities understand that finding oil does not provide the panacea for their problems. Besides the nature of the oil industry, the technology being employed requires high technical expertise which the people in the communities, and perhaps Ghana, may not have and therefore need to understand the kind of labour that is required in such an industry. This will reduce their expectations from the oil industry.

iii) *Provision of Skill training and Credit facilities*

It is important for both the government and the district assemblies to quickly position themselves to come to the aid of those who may lose their livelihood as a result of the oil discovery. These persons, particularly the women, should be supported to secure other alternative means of livelihood. The needs of women when the oil industry begins to boom should be of priority to government and other stakeholders because the study shows that there are many more women taking care of households than men even where they are married. Thus, any intervention intended for the poor and vulnerable should make women the priority. The assistance could be in the form of credit facilities and skill training.

iv) *Resolution of Chieftaincy disputes*

Chieftaincy disputes become rife when land becomes the central point of dispute. With the discovery of oil, there is the possibility that this will become more common in the communities as the chiefs begin to sell the land, and which this study has confirmed. The chiefs and community elders will require some sensitisation on possible disputes related to land that could lead to conflict. Again efforts must be put in place to resolve all chieftaincy disputes prior to the boom of the oil wealth.

v) *Conscious effort to develop communities*

There is the need for government to make conscious effort to develop the oil communities. A proportion of the revenue from the oil production should be set aside purposely for the development of these communities through the provision of certain basic infrastructure to ease the burden of these communities. For example, many of these communities will require boreholes, public toilets, electricity and better roads. This will clear all feelings of bitterness among oil communities as the communities will feel that they have benefited from the resources on their lands.

vi) *Reservation of job opportunities for locals*

Oil companies should be encouraged to reserve some jobs for the local people as long as they have the requisite qualifications. This will ensure that the local people benefit from the oil wealth and also to ensure peace in the oil communities.

vii) Information Dissemination

The study has shown that there has not been any organised dissemination of information and awareness creation in the oil communities about the discovery of oil and its implication. As a result, depending on who visits the communities to provide the information, the message is skewed to favour the one presenting the information. Consequently, different messages have been passed on but the main one given the people the impression that the oil revenue will be used to solve all their problems. This wrong notion needs to be corrected through a well planned educational programme for the oil communities so that they do not receive any shock later when all their expectations are not met.

6.3 Conclusion

This baseline study provides the background to what pertains in the oil communities prior to oil production. The study provides adequate information regarding the impact of the oil production of women and their expectations from the oil companies. Thus, the study provides enough data that can be used to manage the expectations from the oil communities and also to prevent any eventualities. The baseline study provides information on the

The study has shown that community members are aware of oil discovery and expect to benefit enormously from the oil production. Again what is also apparent is that oil production will trigger job creation but this has not started yet but the local people are hopeful it will benefit them. Some people especially farmers and fishermen are likely to lose their livelihoods.

Although it is evident that the high expectation cannot be fully met, there should be noticeable actions aimed at making communities benefit from the oil wealth.

Appendix 1
List of Key Informants Interviewed

Mr. Jones Ato Kwamina Amoah	Ahanta West District Chief Executive
Mr. Zakari Abdulai	Ahanta West District Coordinating Director
Mr. Stephen Blay Director	Ahanta West District Deputy Coordinating
Mr. Albert Ghansah	Ahanta West District Social Welfare Officer
Madam Esther Someah-Kwaw	Assemblywoman of Dixcove Community
Mr. Joseph K. Quarshie	Assemblyman of Cape 3 Point
Nana Akye Kesse (V)	Chief of Cape 3 Point Community
Nana Kwaku Nketia	Chief of Akwidae community
Mr. Birch Assilidjoe	Assemblyman of Akwidae Community
Madam Elizabeth Arthur Community	Leader of Fishmongers of Akwidae
Ms. Benedicta Rhule	Headmistress of Akwidae JHS
Mr. John Adu Kwaw	Assemblyman of Miemia and Egyambra Communities
Nana Faben Ewutwe IV	Chief of Egyambra Community
Mr. Isaac Conney	Headteacher, Egyambra JHS
Mr. Andrews Mannah	Medical Assistant, Egyambra Community
Mr. Duku Agyake	Chief Fisherman, Miemia Community

Abusuapanin Frank Ebiah	Abusuapanin of Miemia Community
Madam Mary Eshun Commmunity	Leader, Fishmongers of Miemia
Madam Elizabeth Eshun Community	Spokesperson, Fishmongers of Miemia
Mr. Emmanuel Ekow Eshun	A teacher, Princess Town JHS
Mr. Roland K. Acquah	Assemblyman, Princess Town
Mr. Joseph Quarcoe	A retired teacher and Administrator of Plaza and Civic Centre, Princess Community
Nana Asiah Kum-son-Apentin VI	Chief of Achoawa
Mr. James K. Amoah	Spokesperson Achoawa Community
Nana Kobobioh	Kontihene of Achoawa Community

Appendix 2
Number of Women Interviewed in each of the Communities

Name of Community	Number of participants present at group meetings	
	Men	Women
Akwidae	34	20
Achoawa	13	1
Cape 3 Points	26	9
Miemia	115	100
Egyambra	75	25
Princess (Prusi)	3	3
Dixcove	0	1
Total number	26	149

Appendix 3
BASELINE STUDY OF OIL AND GAS COMMUNITIES IN GHANA

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COMMUNITIES

Date of interview

.....

Name of community:

Name of Metropolis/Municipal/District Assembly:

Name of
 Enumerator:

Field Checker:

Time Interview started: Time Interview Ended:

A. Demographic

1. Age:

2. Sex

1. Male[] 2. Female[]

3. Marital status

1. Single [] 2. Married [] 3. Divorced []
 4. Widowed [] 5. Separated []

4. Religion

1. Moslem [] 2. Christian [] 3. Traditional []
 4. Other (specify):.....

5. Number of children:

Serial No.	Sex	Age	Level of Educ.	Occupation/Work

If No, why?
.....

10. Do you think the oil/gas discovery will have any impact on your community?

1. Yes [] 2. No []

(a) If Yes, how?

1. Will increase job opportunities in the community []
2. Social life in community will improve with more people coming here []
3. Social amenities will be developed (schools, road, hospitals, light, etc) []
4. Others (specify).....

(b) If No, why?.....
.....
.....

C. Land Ownership

11. (a) Are you an indigene of this community?

1. Yes [] 2. No []

(b) If no, where do you come from?

12. Who are the real owners of land in this community?

1. The Ahantas [] 2. The Fantis []
3. The Nzemas [] 4. Others
(specify).....

13. Who allocate(s) land in this community?

1. Chief [] 2. Traditional elders [] 3. Families []

4. Individuals [] 5. Others

(specify).....

14. Who has access to land in this community?

1. Individuals in the community only []

2. Individuals within and outside the community []

3. Only natives []

4. Only land owners []

5. Others (specify)

15. Who gives out land to the oil companies and other developers?

.....

16. What are the processes involved in land acquisition?

1. Pay drink money to the chief [] 2. Buy land through front man []

3. Pay money direct to the chief [] 4. Others (specify).....

17. Who qualifies to buy land from this community?

1. Private individuals [] 2. Companies [] 3. Government []

4. NGOs [] 5. Indigenes [] 6. Others (specify).....

18. Has the land market changed with the coming in of the oil companies?

Explain:.....
.....
.....
.....

19. Has there been any impact on land tenure arrangements as a result of the oil discovery?

Explain:.....
.....
.....
.....

20. (a) Who are those in the community that are likely to loose their land title as a result of the oil discovery?

- 1. Women [] 2. The Youth [] 3. Settlers []
- 4. Those who do not have documents to cover their lands []
- 5. Others(specify).....

(b)Why?.....
.....
.....
.....

21. (a) Do you own any land?

1. Yes []

2. No []

(b) If Yes,

(i) What is the size of your land?

(ii) What is your land used for?.....

(iii) Is it secured (can it be taken away from you at any time)?

1. Yes []

2. No []

If Yes/No,

explain.....

.....

22. (e) Does your family own land?

1. Yes []

2. No []

(f) If Yes, what is the size?.....

D. Employment

23. (a) Are you self-employed?

1. Yes []

2. No []

(b) If No, what do you do for a living?

24. If self-employed what is your

1. Main Occupation

2. Secondary Occupation

25. (a) Are there any other sources of income?

1. Yes []

2. No []

(c) If Yes, specify:.....

26. How much income do you make per month?

1. 0 - GH¢100 []

2. GH¢100 – GH¢1000 []

3. GH¢1000+ []

27. (a) Are you the breadwinner for your household?

1. Yes []

2. No []

(b) If No, what work does the breadwinner do?

.....

(c) Has the oil discovery affected your job in any way?

1. Yes []

2. No []

(d) If Yes, how?

.....

.....

F. Governance

33. (a) What is the relationship between this community and the DA like?

1. Ok [] 2. Cordial [] 3. Bad []

(b) Why? Explain

.....

34. Who are the decision makers in the community? (Specify).....

35. Do women play any role in decision making process in this community?

1. Yes [] 2. No []

36. (a) Are there any disputes in the community currently?

1. Yes [] 2. No []

(b) What are the disputes about?

(c) Who are the parties normally involved?
.....

37. What are some of the development projects that have taken place in this community in the last two (2) years? List them:

.....

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

38. How will you describe the relationship between the oil companies and the community?

- 1. Ok [] 2. Cordial [] 3. Very good []
- 4. Excellent [] 5. Bad []

39. (a) Do the oil companies meet the community?

- 1. Yes [] 2. No []

(b) If Yes,

(i) How regularly do they meet the community?

- 1. Once a week [] 2. Once a month [] 3. Half yearly []
- 4. Once a year [] 5. Once a while []

(ii) What are some of the issues discussed at the meetings?

- 1. Employment opportunities []
- 2. Scholarships for school children []
- 3. Infrastructure development []
- 4. Sensitization on issues related to the oil discovery []
- 5. Others(specify).....

40. (a) Do the oil companies consult the communities about their intentions and the implications of their exploration to livelihoods?

- 1. Yes []
- 2. No []

(c) If Yes, who do they consult?

(d) (a) Are your opinions considered in decision making process?

- 1. Yes []
- 2. No []

(b) If Yes, whose opinion matters?

- 1. The Chief []
- 2. Traditional Leaders []
- 3. Male []
- 4. Female []
- 5. Youth []
- 6. Everybody []
- 7. Other (specify).....

(c) If No, why?

.....

.....

.....

41. What would you like the oil companies to do for your community? List them:

.....

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....