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# Gendered poverty, migration and livelihood strategies of female porters in Accra, Ghana

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## Abstract

In recent years there has been a dominant migration stream from north to south in Ghana of female youths, moving independently of their families, and mainly towards the cities.

These women, who carry goods for their home communities and are known as porters, work under harsh conditions and are often exploited. This article examines the conditions (kayayeyi) in which they work, their wage and living conditions, and to what extent they are able to address their poverty and to develop their livelihoods.

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reproductive and health rights. The implications for migration policies and poverty reduction strategies are discussed.

Keywords: gender livelihoods migration poverty vulnerability

## Acknowledgements

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## Notes

1. Ardayfio-Schandorf, E. 2004. Gender and feminization of poverty in Ghana: Challenges for development, in Agyei-Mersah, S., Awusabo-Asare, K., Nabila, J.S. & Yarkson, P.W.K. Poverty, Health and Gender in Ghana. Proceedings of NUFU Workshop, University of Ghana, Legon.
2. To preserve the anonymity of respondents, only initials are given rather than their full names.

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