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**STATEMENT**  
**BY NIYI OJUOLAPE, UNFPA COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE**  
**ON THE**  
**OCCASION OF OUTDOORING OF**  
**MENTORS FOR IN-SCHOOL AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL GIRLS ON**  
**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY (IWD) 2019:**  
**MOVENPICK HOTEL, ACCRA**  
**FRIDAY 08 MARCH 2019**

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Protocol:

- H.E First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, Mrs Rebecca Akufo-Addo
- H.E Second Lady of the Republic of Ghana, Mrs Samira Bawumia
- Hon. Frema Osei Opare, the first female Chief of Staff of the Republic of Ghana
- Hon. Awal Muhammed, Minister of Business Development
- Nii mei and Naa mei
- Distinguished Invited Guests
- Ladies and gentlemen of the media

It gives me immense pleasure to be here today, on International Women’s Day 2019, to address this august gathering.

Of the greatest pleasure is even to talk about the “*Because I Want to Be ...Initiative*” a project of the Rebecca Foundation in collaboration with the



United Nations Population Fund. The Initiative, which is implemented in nine communities in six Municipal/Metropolis or Districts along the Coastal Belt of the Greater Accra region is to ensure girls stay on in-school until after Senior High School. That those who drop out of school gather courage to return to school and those who have the potential to drop out rescind the decision and opt to remain in school. The initiative works to also ensure that out-of-school girls gain employable skills.

One of the key strategies to ensure these happen is to engage these girls through mentorship.

**Mentoring** is a powerful personal and career development tool that can enable the mentee to achieve or exceed their life's goals and aspirations.

The aim of mentoring should always be to enable the mentees to develop their own skills, strategies and capability so that they are enabled to tackle the next hurdle more effectively with or without the mentor's presence. There are many **benefits** of a Good Mentoring Relationship both for the mentee and the mentor. These include: Improving communication and inter personal skills, developing leadership and management qualities, reinforcing study skills and knowledge of subject(s) and issues among other.

More specific benefit reflects the following:

- 1. Asking Questions and Getting Advice:** The biggest benefit of having a mentor is having someone you can ask questions and get advice from.

Mentees are likely to get more advice from the mentors than from people like family members, friends and neighbours. Mentors can help mentees sort out which advice they should follow and deal with more complicated matters that friends or family may not know how to solve.

2. **A Different Perspective:** Mentors can help the mentees look at problems and situations from perspectives that they would not have thought of on their own.
3. **Improving Key Skills:** Mentors help mentees to develop skills. Most importantly, communication skill and confidence building skills.
4. **Expanding their Network(s):** Mentors can put mentees in touch with contacts who can help them to become more successful. The more networking they do, the more people they meet. And the more people they meet, the greater the odds are that they will have someone help them further in life.
5. **Long-Lasting Relationships:** Although some mentor-mentee relationships are short-lived, if the mentees hit it off with their mentors, they can foster a long-lasting relationship through which they and their mentors can continue to collaborate for the rest of their lives.
6. **Confidence to Make Better Decisions:** Knowing that one has a credible mentor to turn to can give confidence when facing difficult situations.



Good mentors will praise when mentees make good decisions. Praise can enable mentees see themselves as a wise and experienced person. Seeing oneself confidently this way will help one stand her ground when there is the need to defend a decision.

- 7. A Chance to Give Back:** Mentees are not the only people who benefit from mentoring. Mentors also experience benefits thanks to collaborative learning. By helping others improve their skills, Mentors may improve their own skills. They may be inspired with new ideas, meet new contacts and learn new strategies from their mentees.

The individual women of repute in society who have availed themselves to be mentors of the *Because I Want to Be... In-School and Out-Of-School Initiative* need commendation and acknowledgement.

Today, on International Women's Day 2019, we outdoor them. We assure them of the needed support for them to discharge this onerous duty.

The Rebecca Foundation, led by H. E the First Lady will STAND by you.  
We say Kudos for a brave decision.

Thank you for your audience.