

SOCIOSERVE-GHANA

ANNUAL REPORT, 2017

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MALARIA PREVENTION PROJECT

In 2017 we continued with our Malaria Prevention Project in the Lower Manya Krobo Municipality. The project was funded by the National Malaria Control Program and the goal is to contribute to the overall goal of the National Malaria Strategic Plan; which is to reduce malaria burden to a level where it no longer constitute a major cause of morbidity and mortality and contribute to the improvement of economic and social development. The project was implemented in 15 communities in the district and targeted reached out to women, children and the general population.

These target beneficiaries were reached out by trained volunteers who provided house to house education on malaria and also educated and encouraged community members to sleep under insecticide treated nets to prevent malaria. Identification and follow up of pregnant women forms a vital part of the project since regularly follow up help ensure the elimination of malaria in pregnancy. Volunteers also undertook house to house identification and registration of pregnant women and periodically followed up on them to ensure they attend antenatal regularly and also take the full dosage of the Sulfadoxine- Pyrimethamine (SP). Pregnant women who were not attending antenatal were encouraged to do so. Volunteers sometimes accompanied these pregnant women to the nearest health facility or facility of their choice for antenatal care. Those who were already attending antenatal were also encouraged and served reminders to ensure they did not default.

To register a pregnant woman, volunteers ensured that she is a resident of the community since it aids follow ups. Again, volunteers enquire if pregnant woman has ever attended antenatal, if the response is yes, he/she then goes ahead to request for her ante-natal card and examine if pregnant woman consistently take the SP. In the case whereby pregnant woman consistently take the drug, she is encouraged to keep it up, on the other hand, if it is realized she has defaulted, volunteer will then constantly followed up to ensure she take the remaining dosage. Finally, volunteer investigates if pregnant woman experiences any side effects upon taken the drug, if the response is yes, she is encouraged to seek medical assistance from the clinic.

Volunteers were generally accepted by community members during outreach events. This was due to the fact that Socioserve-Ghana provided them with T-Shirts and therefore were easily recognized and given the needed attention. Others, on the other hand felt reluctant to provide volunteers with information to aid their work because they felt it was personal. Volunteers however intensified their education which helped in resolving this challenge.

Beneficiaries reached with the intervention

- **9382** community members educated on Malaria prevention and encouraged to sleep under ITNs
- **82** pregnant women were identified during the period August 2017– November 2017 with 78 taking IPTp. Spouses of pregnant women were given education on the relevance of immunization, this was basically to enable them see its relevance and constantly remind their wives to take their children for CWC. 4 pregnant women were identified as not being on IPTp as a result of adverse reactions from the medicine, delivery and others relocated from their communities.

Strategies adopted to reach out to beneficiaries

- Outreach events were organized in the form of talks in mosques, churches, community durbars and discussions with organized groups.

- Chief and opinion leaders were actively involved and they helped to mobilize community members for programs. Chiefs and opinion leaders helped resolve issues faced by both volunteers and health workers
- T-Shirts were procured by Socioserve-Ghana and distributed among volunteers and health workers to be used especially during outreach event, it also served as a form of identification for volunteers during regular field visits and aided them get the due recognition from community members.
- Participatory approaches were used to facilitate small and large group discussion as well as door to door education by trained volunteers. This allowed participants to contribute to the discussion. Resource persons constantly created the platforms for participants to share their views on malaria prevention.

Role of the communities

The communities themselves played key roles in achieving the objectives of the project. They assisted community volunteers in organizing outreaches by providing venues for meetings and mobilizing the communities. The traditional authorities played oversight role on the activities of the volunteers; they supported the sensitization by talking about malaria prevention during public gatherings.

Lesson learnt

Few pregnant women were taken off drug due to the adverse effect it had on them. Others had also travelled away from the community. Some pregnant women and community members requested for new mosquito nets to replace the old ones which are deteriorated. SSG will continue to provide education to ensure pregnant and targeted groups understands the importance of taking the SP and sleeping under ITNS. SSG will continue to liaise with queen mothers to promote education on SP.

REINFORCING T.B INTERVENTION IN THE EASTERN REGION THROUGH EFFECTIVE TARGETING

With support from the National Tuberculosis Control Program, SSG continued with its interventions on Tuberculosis (TB). The project was implemented in the Kwahu Afram Plains North and South districts and Yilo Krobo Municipal. The objectives of the project are;

- To facilitate the screening, detection and enrolment on treatment all identified TB cases in project districts
- To increase TB treatment success rate in project districts by pursuing an effective follow-up system as well as targeting of Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization activities

Main activities implemented

1. TB contracting was conducted in 25 communities in both districts.
 - Plains North are - *Forifori, Asukese, Nkwanta, Kwame - Dwamena, Mame Krobo, Atonsu, Kwakese, Kpodokope, Zongo, Adeemmra, Asempaneyeye, Supom, Ntonaboma, Kayera, Alavanyo and Katapilar*
 - Plains South are - *Maame Krobo, Ekye and Korankye.*
 - Yilo Krobo are - *Agyekpo, Sawyer, Okperpiem, Salosi, Ogome and Sra*
2. Community sensitization and TB screening was conducted in Forifori prisons Agortime and Adiemmra communities Agyekpo, Sawyer, Okperpiem, Salosi, Ogome and Sra
3. Screening of prison inmates and prayer camps. This was conducted at Forifori prisons and Ogome prayer camp. The focus was to detect cases; as a result, the team adopted the strategy of mass screening at the prisons and prayer camps for TB interspersed with other forms of education such as on HIV.

Results achieved

The tables below show number of beneficiaries reached during contact tracing and TB screening;

Indicators	Results
Number of persons screened for TB	322
Number of persons tested for TB	125
Number of persons diagnosed TB +.	4
Number of persons on TB treatment.	4

Project implementation strategies

To ensure the project used the most effective method in identifying cases in project districts, the following strategies were implemented.

- Follow ups to close contacts of persons diagnosed with TB and Screening of such people

- Provider initiated screening (Lab technicians to initiate TB screening based on symptoms presented by patients).
- Motivate lab technicians in sputum screening.
- Mass screening of community members for TB in selected communities.
- Payment of transport fares for sputum examination

Support for GHS staff to follow up presumed Cases

Socioserve-Ghana supported staff of the Ghana Health Service financially to follow up on presumed cases that were unable to present the early morning sputum to the lab for screening. The support was given in the form of transportation and this helped massively to increase the detection rate.

Response to challenges on the project

- Due to the scattered nature of the communities, it made it difficult for volunteers to move easily from house to house especially during contact tracing. Therefore, more CHO's were deployed to visit these scattered community to ensure none was left out
- Some clients had left home for the farm during the visit and made it impossible for them to be screened. Therefore CHO's visit very early in the morning in order to meet clients who were not available during the visit.
- Some clients had difficulty in producing on- the- spot sputum for the team and so early morning sputum was collected from client who could not produce on-the-spot sputum.
- Some clients opted to deliver early morning sputum to the facilities and demanded re-imburement of funds so only client who brought sputum for examination were reimbursed

HIV PREVENTION AMONG FEMALE STUDENTS IN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

This project was supported by the **African Women's Development Fund (AWDF)** to organise Story writing and poetry competition among young girls in 5 SHS in the Asuogyaman District in the Eastern region of Ghana.

Girls and women face double vulnerability to HIV. This is due to their gender, their sex and their age. Some 7,000 girls and women become HIV positive every day with nearly half of all people living with HIV are female. Girls and young women are at least twice as physically vulnerable to HIV as boys and young men. They are also more socially, culturally and economically vulnerable. Poverty, gender inequality, sexual violence, lack of economic independence and poor educational opportunities limits their ability to choose when, how and with whom to have sex.

The objectives of the project were;

- To enhance knowledge of the general public especially young girls on HIV prevention, Women's Bodily Rights and violence against women
- To foster self-expression and creativity among young girls in 5 Senior High Schools in the Asuogyaman district

This project targeted in-school youth aged 16 to 20 in the Asuogyaman District of Ghana, specifically those in all the five (5) public Senior High Schools namely;

- Akwamuman Senior High School
- Adjena Senior High School
- Boso Secondary Technical School
- Anum Presbyterian Senior High School
- Apegusu Senior High School.

We used the arts and media through story writing and poetry to empower in-school young girls of these schools with HIV prevention skills, information on their bodily rights and prevention of violence against women, hence promoting self-expression and creativity among these young people.

Story writing and Poetry Competition by Young Girls

As a means of encouraging young girls to reflect on and narrate their experiences and perspectives as well as explore their emotions when it comes to the subject of HIV prevention, Women's Bodily Rights and Violence against Women was chosen as the theme.

We opened a Story writing and Poetry competition the 5 SHS in the district by inviting young girls to submit stories and poems on the above theme. The competition was in two (2) forms: Story Writing and Poetry. This enhanced personal reflection, self-expression and attitude change among the participants. Sixteen (16) entries were received from all 5 participating schools. Selected professional's thereafter shortlisted eight (8) best entries. A 3 member panel made up of representatives from the District Office of the Ghana Education Service, Asuogyaman District Assembly and Socioserve-Ghana further assessed the entries based on a given criteria and selected the best 3.

Media publicity for the best entries participants

The 3 best entries were posted on SSG's social media pages (Facebook and blog), and on the Event Page created specifically for this project to enhance the education of the students

<https://socioserveghana.wordpress.com/2017/02/27/end-child-marriage-poem/>

<https://socioserveghana.wordpress.com/2017/02/27/my-body-my-right-poem/>

<https://socioserveghana.wordpress.com/2017/03/28/say-no-to-early-marriage-poem/>

Additionally, the 3 entries were published in Socioserve-Ghana's e-newsletter that is distributed to over 500 listed recipients comprising individuals, organisations and development partners as well as posted on our website www.socioserveghana.org. The overall best poem was also published in national newspapers and in every publication, the AWDF was acknowledged. Details of the 3 best entries below:

Name	School	Position
Gifty Adwoa Addo	Akwamuman SHS	Overall Best
Angela Akoe Adotevi	Adjena SHS	1st Runner Up
Kate Akua Ampomah	Boso SHS	2 nd Runner Up

Awards to the schools and participants

We honoured the respective schools and winners so as to encourage other students to get involved in such exercises the next time, the presentation of the awards was tied in to the 60th Independence Day Celebration held on March 6, 2017 in the Asuogyaman district. The table below shows awards presented to the 3 winners:

Position	Awards
Overall Best	A tablet, Cash Price of GHS 500.00. A wall clock sponsored by 3As Microfinance Ltd was donated to the winner's school, Akwamuman Senior High School
1st Runner Up	A tablet, Cash Prize of GHS 200.00
2 nd Runner Up	A tablet

Development of an Event Page using Social Media

An event page, "My Body, My Rights: Sustaining the Campaign on AIDS Prevention" attached to the official SSG page on Facebook, "Socioserve-Ghana – SSG".

https://www.facebook.com/events/1801309453481215/?active_tab=discussion Information on HIV, Women's bodily rights and violence against women were constantly posted on the page to generate discussion. All participating schools were given the name of the page and encouraged to follow the progress of the project on it while urging them to participate in the discussions generated there. Video and audio recordings from influential people in the districts in connection with the theme were posted on the Event Page.

The project was implemented in collaboration with the District Health Directorate, District HIV/AIDS Committee and the District Office of the Ghana Education Service and we are grateful for their collaboration.

“TRUE LOVE WAITS” PROJECT

This project was implemented with support from the Compassion International Ghana (CIGH). The goal of the project is to improve the health of adolescent beneficiaries by providing them with knowledge on appropriate sexual and reproductive health information and material to enable them make informed wise choices towards healthy sexual living thereby preventing and or minimizing issues of teenage pregnancies, STIs and possible sexual abuses.

Socioserve role in this project were the following;

- Monitoring and follow up visits to the six (6) Child Development Centres (CDC) under the programme and ensure that peer educators have successfully selected their peer contact and further agree on appropriate days for organising the training for selected peer contacts.
- Organised and provided technical support during the Peer Contacts training programs. Trained peer educators assumed the roles of facilitators as they thoroughly took participants through various topics such as HIV/AIDS, STI, and Teenage Pregnancy among others.

Monitoring Visit to Peer Educators at Child Development Centers

Prior to the start of the Peer Contacts training workshop, a monitoring team Socioserve- Ghana visited the Child Development Centres (CDC's) under the program namely Atimpoku, South Senchi, Juapong, Labolabo, Fintey and Adjena. The monitoring helped to plan the peer contacts training and also to address some issues at the centers.

Training of adolescents and caregivers

A 5 day training workshop on Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health for Thirty Six (36) adolescents and also organized sensitization meetings for caregivers for Six (6) Implementing Church Partners (ICPs). The objectives of the training and meeting were to provide;

- In-depth knowledge on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights (ASRHR) in order to prevent and minimize issues of teenage pregnancies, STIs and possible sexual abuses among others.
- In-depth understanding of the Bible's perspective on sexuality and its related issues.
- In-depth knowledge on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights (ASRHR) in order to prevent and minimize issues of teenage pregnancies, STIs and possible sexual abuses among others.

Participants between the ages of 9 to 14 were trained as peer educators to educate their peers on adolescent sexual reproductive health issues. Care givers of these adolescents were also trained in order to know the changes that occur among adolescents so they can better guide them as they grow.

READING COMPETITION AMONG VRA KYEASE CLUSTER OF SCHOOLS IN AKOSOMBO IN THE EASTERN REGION

This project was implemented with support from **Share Foundation** in Tema. The project's objective was to promote reading among pupils in basic schools. This was done by organising a reading competition among the VRA Kyease cluster of schools in Akosombo in the Asuogyaman District of the Eastern Region.

Recent research findings by the Early Grade Reading Assess Report released in February 2017 by the GES indicated that 51 percent of class 2 pupils in public basic schools in Ghana cannot read which is affecting their academic performance.

The competition was to stimulate a critical reading habit in them to compliment the efforts by their teachers. The three schools Kyease, Church Ridge and Roman Catholic primary schools were represented by two contestants each to battle for the ultimate prize. The pupils keenly competed as they were drilled with three rounds of reading, comprehension and spelling of key words in the reading passage. At the end of the competition,

Winners of the competition

Miss Magdaline Teye of Church Ridge primary emerged the overall winner whiles Miss Delali Sukah Sandel of Roman Catholic and Master David Akonnor of Kyease primary schools took the second and third positions respectively. The winners were honored.

Aside the three overall winners, all other participants received gifts of reading materials, exercise books, pens, pencils, erasers, bags and other educational materials. The schools and reading club teachers were also presented with books for their relentless support to the students.

We are grateful to the Share Foundation for their support.

PROMOTING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY IN GHANA (PEIG) - 2016 AND BEYOND

This project is being supported by the **European Union** with the overall goal of contributing to a violent free transparent and credible 2016 general elections in Ghana. This project is being implemented in 15 constituencies in partnership with the Global Action for Women Empowerment (GLOWA), Development Gateway International (DEGAIN), Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) and Delink Services.

Thankfully, the elections have ended and the transition has smoothly taken place. However, we kept the engagements at the constituency through stakeholder reflections and lessons were picked for the future. These reflections provided the space and platform to promote peace after the declaration of results and transition to the new government in 2017 and also to reflect on the elections and share lessons for the future.

During post-election reflection and peace forums, political party representatives shared their opinion on how IPDC actions ensured inter-party cooperation and peace;

- *'IPDC has helped in maintaining peace in this constituency; I wonder what happened in other areas that did not have IPDC- shared by Sefwi Akontombra constituency'*
- *'Now we political party leaders have become good friends, we sit together at meetings and we are prepared to listen to each other. Even though we have different ideologies, this shouldn't call for war- shared by Adaklu constituency'*

During the postelection reflections, certificates of honour were presented to all political parties and the IPDC for their immense contributions and participation in all project activities and their cooperation with the electoral process to ensure that the elections were peaceful most especially in the project constituencies.

This forums were organised in collaboration with the Inter Party Dialogue Committees and brought together participants from all political parties, traditional authorities, youth groups, women groups, persons with disabilities, media, security services, NCCE, Electoral Commission, National Youth Authority, National Peace Council. We are grateful for their intense participation and collaboration. We also express our appreciation to CDD Ghana and Junior Chamber International (JCI) for their partnership in organizing some of the engagements.

We encourage you to visit the project website using the link www.peigproject.com and the facebook page also using <https://goo.gl/yJ3jh0> to get more details on the project.

STRENGTHENING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN GHANA PROGRAMME

This is an organizational capacity development programme being supported by the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI). The programme is designed to strengthen the organisational effectiveness, advocacy, result-based management and reporting skills. The programme is also to support accountability and participatory development processes of the organisation for more effective policy influence and engagement with government and the private sector.

The programme commenced in August 2016 and expected to end by October 2018. The objectives of the programme are

- To reinforce the organizational capacity of selected CSOs through more robust governance structures, leadership and management abilities for enhanced performance and sustainability.
- To strengthen results-based communication and ability of selected CSOs to use monitoring and evaluation data for effective management, performance reporting and accountability.
- To strengthen the ability of CSOs to develop evidence-based advocacy and influencing strategies, effective networking and communication techniques.

In 2017, 3 staff participated in separate training programmes as part of the programme. The training sought to develop skills of key selected staff so that they can lead the process of integrating the knowledge acquired into the organisation.

The following staff participated in the following training programmes

1. John Obuaba – Leadership and Governance
2. Peter Koomson – Result-Based Monitoring and Evaluation
3. Dominic Kulariba – Policy Engagement and Advocacy, Networking and Alliance Building

Action plans have been developed which are implemented by the organisation. The following are the action items the organisation is working;

1. Revise SSG Policy Manual
2. Develop SSG Resource Mobilisation and Sustainability Plan (RMSP)
3. Update strategic Plan

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

1. The Programs Manager, Mrs. Rita Ntoso Ofoe , attended a two weeks Diploma program by Danida Development Support Program under the auspices of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Danida Fellowship Centre in Copenhagen, Denmark. The objective of the training was to equip participants with knowledge on CSO governance in order to be self-sustained.
2. The Principal Program Officer, John Obuaba 2-days capacity building training attended at the West African Civil Society Institute (WACSI) on behalf of SSG. This training was part of the ongoing 3 years CSOs capacity development programme in Ghana by WACSI. The specific objectives of the training were as follows; to enhance knowledge participants (representatives from selected CSOs) in leadership and governance principles and processes. To provide capacity for participants to lead the process of implementing a post-training action plan to address key leadership and governance bottlenecks in their respective organizations
3. The M&E Officer, Mr. Peter Koomson, participated in a three (3) days training workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation organized at the West African Civil Society Institute (WACSI) from the 3rd to 6th March 2017. This is part of 3 years ongoing project aimed at building the capacity of 15 CSO's beneficiaries of the Embassy of France Capacity Strengthening project in Ghana. The objectives of the training were to provide basic understanding on Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation, equip participants on how to efficiently track project Results and Outcomes and enable participants to implement post- training action plan and help put systems in place to solve Monitoring and evaluation challenges of their respective organization.
4. Dominic Kulariba, Senior Programs Officer participated in a 3 day on Policy Engagement and Advocacy, Networking and Alliance Building. The training seeks to strengthen links between evidence and advocacy efforts. The training enhanced his skills in policy research methodology, policy analysis, data collection techniques, research report writing, and documentation as well as provide requisite knowledge, skills and techniques to effectively engage a broad range of stakeholders to influence policy-making processes at local, national and international level.