



## WAAF Celebrates WAD 2021

WAAF joins the world in commemorating World AIDS Day!

World AIDS Day fell on 1st December, 2021 and was packed with a variety of activities to mark the day. Television and radio stations such as GHonetv, 3fm and Joy news collaborated with WAAF to spread the much-needed news about HIV especially the changes and challenges but also improvements that have taken place over recent years. Various staff from WAAF/IHCC were on air enlightening the public on such matters.

Planned activities to commemorate the day started off with month-long activities centered around community level education, screening, and referral of identified cases for further care, alongside radio and TV sessions, which were all crowned with an exhibition and HIV testing & counseling durbar, organized by the Ghana AIDS Commission at the forecourt of the Trade fair Centre LA in the Greater Accra Region on December 1st, where literally all HIV focused NGOs in Ghana, including WAAF, were present.

Amongst various activities, WAAF demonstrated the correct use of both the male and female condoms and distributed over 500 condoms to encourage safer sexual practices.

WAAF also took the opportunity to share its years of work with all who visited the WAAF booth. These were made up of high school students, journalists, men and women from diverse backgrounds and colleague NGO staff. Various educational materials on HIV, such as U=U (Undetectable = Untransmittable), preventing TB (Tuberculosis), Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) were given out to interested persons for further reading.



## Appreciating the Haatso Community



WAAF/IHCC have for over 10 years been operating from a premises in the township of Haatso in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. As a way of showcasing appreciation to its immediate community, WAAF & IHCC in collaboration with Chayuta (from Chayuta Music) and her friends and co-students from The Northern Consortium UK (NCUK), on the 18th of December, conducted a free health screening and donation exercise for residents of the Haatso community. The event took place in the popular sub-community of Haatso known as the Yam Market. Tests and services of the day were among others, Hepatitis B, Random Blood sugar and HIV. Screening for blood pressure and body mass index were also provided. Capitalizing on the time of

the year, namely the Christmas festive season and the close of the year 2021, WAAF/IHCC were delighted when Chayuta and her school mates decided to help WAAF/IHCC give back to their community by donating personal items and more to especially children and the youth of the Haatso Town. On the day itself, whilst the WAAF/IHCC medical team conducted health screenings, melodious tunes (songs by Chayuta music) kept all in attendance happy and cheerful. The students of NCUK then made many children present happy by donating, clothes, shoes, stationary, and much more to them. Being able to bring smiles on the faces of such young ones was a delight and the efforts of the students from NCUK is greatly appreciated.



A total of 46 people were screened for all the tests. With 1 person testing positive to HIV and 5 testing positives to Hepatitis B. All positive cases were referred for appropriate follow up care. There were more females who tested positive compared to males.

## Training on Stigma & Discrimination

As a follow-up to a survey conducted by the Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG), in 20 healthcare facilities, it was found that some persons living with HIV and TB continue to experience some level of stigma and discrimination in facilities including IHCC. The outcome of the survey led to a 5-day training of trainers' workshop on Stigma and Discrimination. At the end of the training of trainers, GHAG tasked all facilities represented to hold a step-down training to ensure 100% of their staff are trained on S&D and within a specified timeline. IHCC has already stepped down its training to cover 100% of its staff.



2021 4th Quarter Newsletter

## The EpiC Project

The goal of preventing new HIV infections among key and vulnerable populations within the Greater Accra region is still intact as we continue work on the second phase of the EpiC project. The aim of the project is still to maintain epidemic control in the fight against HIV. The current project year started in October 2021 with same activities in PrEP and HIV Self Testing services. WAAF work closely with two implementing parents, namely Priorities on Rights and Sexual Health (PORSH) and Worldwide Youth Organization (WIYO) to reachout to the most at risk populations. We are however excited to share some of our achievement on the project with you below.

207 people received and used HIVST kits, 33 tested reactive to HIV, and 18 were confirmed positive. For PrEP uptake, 117 people were screened for PrEP and 115 of them were eligible and all 115 were enrolled on PrEP.



## Care Continuum



The battle against HIV and AIDS continues at WAAF and IHCC. This is manifested as our team on the Strengthening the Care Continuum Project in the Western region of Ghana continues to reach vulnerable groups with HIV testing, counselling, index testing, risk network referral, PrEP initiation, social media referrals, education, advocacy, etc. Implementation is ongoing in Ellebelle, Jomoro and Nzema East districts respectively.

We are happy to announce that the project's hard work has continued in the quarter of 2021. 1,679 people were reached and tested, 38 of the initial figure tested positive to HIV and were all initiated on ART, and 83 persons were successfully enrolled on PrEP.

## 2021 Care for the Caregivers Soiree

WAAF/IHCC have been working in Ghana for 22 years contributing towards battling HIV & AIDS and during this time, it has been the staff who have continued to make the organizations prosper. Realizing their tireless efforts, the staff are truly the unsung heroes of WAAF/IHCC and it was this that led, the leadership of the International Health Care Centre (IHCC) and the West Africa AIDS Foundation (WAAF) to appreciate and celebrate their caregivers as well as implementing partners, ally organizations and stakeholders this year.



This was done through an End of Year event (soiree) dubbed "Care for the Caregivers" which took place on 10th December 2021 at the WAAF-IHCC office located in Haatso, Accra in the Greater Accra region of Ghana.



The event brought together current staff, past staff, implementing partners, front-line workers such as our hard-working peer educators, case managers, field officers, Models of Hope, our friends in the media and various stakeholders who have continued to support WAAF/IHCC along their journey. Also present were stars like Labanj Sacs, and Ghana's sweetheart Chayuta who graced the occasion with melodious music. This event was such an important one and we entreat you to look out for our 2021 edition of the WAAF annual report for more details of WAAF & IHCC's evening with friends and care for the care givers Soiree. Stay tuned!

## Presentation by WAAF at the 2021 HIV Prevention Summit

On the 1st & 2nd December of 2021, Guro Sorensen, head nurse of IHCC, on behalf of WAAF, gave an oral presentation at the virtual HIV prevention Summit 2021.

Dubbed "PrEP Community Services to FSWs in Accra", Guro's presentation briefed the audience on some of the interventions WAAF and IHCC implement under the EpiC project to reach FSWs with convenient and professional PrEP services at the community level. The presentation was professionally delivered by Guro and was a great success.



## Contact Information

**Email:** [info@waafweb.org](mailto:info@waafweb.org)

### WAAF/IHCC Headquarters

Plot 650 Ecomog Road  
Haatso, Greater Accra.

Opposite Benab Oil filling station. The closest station is  
Haatso Station.

Contact Numbers: +233 302 545 054 | +233 243 362  
447

### Central Regional Offices

1. Kasoa Nyanyayo Road - near Teacher's quarters
2. Winneba - Apam Road Opp. Dukes Filling Station
3. Cape Coast - Akyeano Near Cherubim and Searphim School
4. Assin Fosu Town Around Melcom
5. Dunkwa field office - Dunkwa Atechem Boass road

### WAAF, Western Region Office

Address: 109/No 1 Bekwai Rd near Mexico Hotel,  
Takoradi

Contact Numbers: +233 24 935 4576 | +233 20 392  
8883 | +233 312 190 548

### WAAF, Northern Region Office

Address: Bolga Rd after District Assembly barrier,  
Savelugu

Contact Numbers: +233 026 075 1066 | +233 20 174  
5326 | +233 303 933 778

### Bono Region Office

Address: 2nd Floor Emmanuel Otoo Plaza, opposite Civic  
Centre, Sunyani

+233 (0) 241169696 | (0) 20219179



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@WestAfricaAids1



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