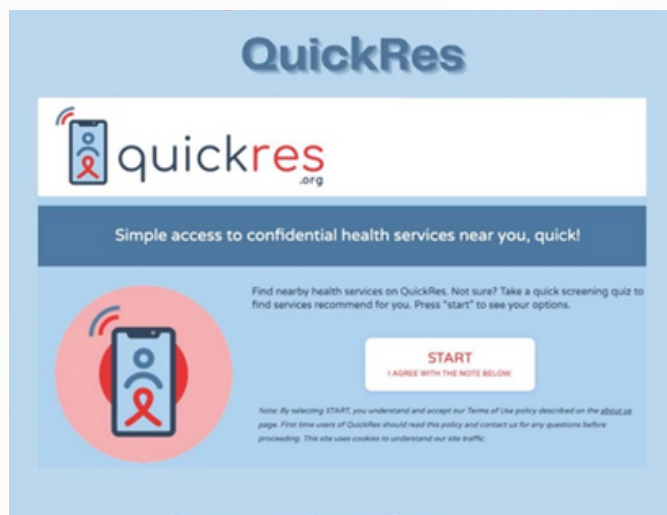


# WAAF & IHCC Expands into Tele medicine



Although telehealth had its debut prior to COVID19, consequences of the pandemic such as lockdowns, physical distancing, and the extreme fear of acquiring the infection when in the midst of others, led to telehealth suddenly emerging as a silver lining of the COVID-19 pandemic, improving access to care, and facilitating a transition toward digital medicine. In line with these developments, the West Africa AIDS Foundation (WAAF), its onsite clinic, the International Health Care Centre (IHCC), and two second tier organizations, PORSH and WIYO, under the implementation of the USAID/KPIF funded, and FHI 360 managed project, "Meeting Targets and maintaining epidemic control aka EpiC project" introduced QuickRes, an online booking system that allows clients to book appointments for various sexual health services.

With financing from USAID and PEPFAR, FHI 360 created the Online Reservation and Case Management App (ORA) software,

which is used by QuickRes ([www.quickres.org](http://www.quickres.org)). QuickRes is accessible in several locales and tongues. FHI 360, a global nonprofit organization devoted to enhancing the health and wellbeing of people both domestically and abroad, runs QuickRes. WAAF and FHI 360 are regarded as the "controllers" of QuickRes in Ghana. The West Africa AIDS Foundation (WAAF) and FHI 360 are regarded as the "controllers" of QuickRes in Ghana (<https://quickres.org>) **What does Quickres offer?** QuickRes is an online platform that allows Simple access to confidential health services near you, quickly! Get friendly, private sexual health care in Ghana with the help of the QuickRes platform, which makes it possible for any member of the public to look up and reserve appointments for a variety of health services. Scheduled appointments are communicated to the preferred service provider, in this case WAAF and IHCC, after which the service provider helps clients get to appointments and records the health services given to clients who show up for appointments. Customers can also schedule free delivery of HIV self-testing kits (HIVST) and PrEP pills through QuickRes.

To further support QuickRes as part of differentiated service delivery, WAAF and its clinic IHCC, give the clients three options for accessing services.

1. Receive services at WAAF's clinic, the International Health Care Center
2. Receive services at the offices of our second-tier organizations.
3. Receive services through the mobile clinic at places of convenience for the clients.
4. WAAF & IHCC continue to be there to ensure no one is left behind.

## Reaching Communities in Hard-to-reach Areas with COVID-19 Vaccine



Accessing hard – to – reach areas can deter healthcare workers from going into communities, hence leaving them without the health care they need which often includes vaccinations. To reach communities in Mpeasem A and B and Dogye in the Jomoro Municipal located in the Western region, healthcare workers must cross a river using a canoe without life jackets, making it a very dangerous trip in an attempt to bring health services to the people. Regardless, the WAAF implemented USAID Global VAX project, through the USAID Care Continuum Project, recognized the need to reach out to community members in Mpeasem A and B and Dogye to bring the COVID-19 vaccination to the people. The WAAF team in the Western Region risked the journey of crossing the river to reach the people in these communities with COVID 19 education. The team educated residents on the benefits and availability of the vaccine and followed up with another visit with the Ghana Health

Service COVID-19 vaccination team. Thanks to the continued education on COVID-19, those eligible were vaccinated.

## WAAF & IHCC Undertake PSEAH Training

In February 2023, the Programs Manager and Gender focal person for WAAF and IHCC led a training for headquarters staff, national service personnel, and volunteers on Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH). The training was held at the IHCC reception desk. The training was attended by many of the staff, including national service personnel and volunteers.

Mr. Phinehas Kissiedu stated that PSEAH training is required for all employees of WAAF and IHCC. He added that given the nature of our humanitarian and development work, staff and volunteers are frequently in positions of power while assisting people and communities in very vulnerable situations. As a result, it is critical that all staff and communities with which we work must be able to work and operate in a safe and harassment-free environment. During the training, Phinehas used relatable scenarios to help everyone understand what was going on. He also discussed the six core principles, the consequences, and sanctions for all PSEAH offenses, and how they are addressed. It was followed by a Q&A session.



## Induction of New WAAF Board Of Directors



According to the WAAF Board of Directors charter, the fourth quarter of 2022 saw the tenure of the current WAAF Board of Directors (BOD) end. As such, the first quarter of 2023 required the recruitment of new BOD members. Management started by identifying prospective members in Ghana and abroad. These identified persons were reached with the offer/ appeal. A hybrid meeting was scheduled between the incoming and outgoing WAAF BOD members after they accepted to serve. This was to enable proper handing over of positions and a smooth transition from the outgoing members to incoming members. In this meeting, the outgoing BOD chair, Dr. Vera Opata, gave a presentation which detailed WAAF's history and the work WAAF and IHCC do. After some questions and answers that arose from the presentation, an election was held among the incoming members to appoint the new chair of the BOD. After the election, Dr. Serlorm Kutsoati, Health Director for the Ga East District, emerged as the new chairperson of the WAAF Board Of Directors. WAAF's founder and chairman, Mr. Eddie Donton, came second and is to be Assistant Chairperson to the BOD.



## Healthy Mother Equals Healthy Baby Project

WAAF and IHCC continue the implementation of the Healthy mother equals Healthy Baby project with funding from the Glad Star Ministries in the USA and the Star Ghana foundation. This project seeks to support pregnant and lactating HIV positive women by offering a variety of educational activities. These activities include meeting all women once a month to discuss issues ranging from nutrition, staying on HIV treatment to not transmit the HIV virus to their children, and best practices that lead to staying healthy and ensuring their babies are also healthy. This is WAAF and IHCC's small way of reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV which will gradually lead to the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Knowing the current economic hardship ongoing in the country today, WAAF and IHCC predicted how this could lead to pregnant and lactating HIV positive mothers may not be able to plan their meals to reflect the right portions for a balanced diet, an important element for all Persons Living with HIV. This is why dieticians are invited to give such talks to these women on how to plan their meals with the required nutrients for their well-being the growth of their baby. During these meetings, the educational presentations are given by health care specialists who are well-versed in their various fields of discipline. The talks are then interpreted in local languages for the easier comprehension of the participants. In this first quarter, the HM = HB has benefited 35 HIV positive pregnant and lactating mothers. These women are also given food items to augment their ability to eating nutritious meals. WAAF, IHCC, and their clients remain grateful to Glad Star Ministries and the Star Ghana Foundation for jointly funding this project.



## International Women's Day @ WAAF & IHCC

**INTERNATIONAL**  
*Women's*  
**DAY**



Gender Equity has always been at the core of the West Africa AIDS Foundation (WAAF) and the International Health Care Centre (IHCC). This is why we have always been conscious of incorporating Gender Equity throughout our organizations, from our Board of Directors to the management staff; our staff set up comprises of about 90% females. This year, on International Women's Day, we chose to celebrate the women who have, together, championed the work we do at IHCC and WAAF. To their honor, here is a list of their names: Dr. Naa Ashiley Vanderpuye-Donton, the Chief Executive Officer of WAAF and the Medical Director of IHCC, with over 20 years of work in HIV, infectious diseases, and the Public Health Sphere of our work; Dr. Vera Opat, recent past chair of the WAAF Board of Directors; Esinam Agbanyo, our onsite physician and clinical Head of our clinic International Health Care Centre; Sandra Boakye, the HR Manager

and Administrator of our clinic; Penelope M. Agbai, Administrative & Communications Officer and Intern Coordinator; Joana Amponsah, the head nurse; and Priscilla Affum, EpIC project nurse consultant. We believe women, when given the opportunity, will do great things in closing the existing gender gaps in our society and in our part of the world.

## GET INTOUCH WITH WAAF & IHCC

WAAF and IHCC enjoy servicing the people of Ghana; we continue to ensure our services are available to all and that absolutely no one is left behind. We also enjoy sharing our experiences as we continue our journey in the areas of health in Ghana focusing on HIV and TB. You can reach us and keep in touch with us via any of the under-listed contact details. We look forward to an exciting year in 2021 and you can follow our work on these same platforms.

### PHYSICAL OFFICE ADDRESSES

#### WAAF Headquarters, Greater

Accra Address: 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  
Please direct general inquiries to: [info@waafweb.org](mailto:info@waafweb.org)

#### WAAF Western Regional Office

WAAF Takoradi Office GI18,  
Adjoa Gharthey Street Near Mexico Hotel  
GPS Address: WS-201-7442  
Contact number: 0249354576/ 0245021821/ 0243362447  
Email: [info@waafweb.org](mailto:info@waafweb.org)

#### WAAF Essiama Office

Essiama on top of the Ecobank Building opposite Dukes filling Station  
GPS Address: WE-0206-7313  
Contact number: 0553964934/ 0249354576/ 0243362447  
Email: [info@waafweb.org](mailto:info@waafweb.org)

#### WAAF, Northern Regional Office

Address: Savelugu Municipal Health Assembly  
Contact Number: 0243675303/ 0243362447  
Email: [info@waafweb.org](mailto:info@waafweb.org)

#### WAAF Central Regional Offices

- Kasoa Nyanyayo Road near Teacher's quarters
- Winneba – Apam Road Opp. Dukes Filling Station
- Cape Coast – Akyeano Near Cherubim and Searphim School
- Assin Fosu Town Around Melcom
- Dunkwa Field Office, Dunkwa Atechem Boass road



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