



WELCOME TO OUR  
**Quarter 1 Newsletter**

## Featured Articles



- WAAF's Transition: Implementing the GC7 Project
- Prioritizing Public Health
- Closure of the USAID Strengthening the Care Continuum Project at WAAF
- Understanding and Coping with Trauma
- Enhancing Safety and Security through Comprehensive Training
- A Brief Analysis of the Healthy Mother equals Healthy Baby and Shelter Home Programs



Read more

## WAAF's Transition: Implementing the GC7 Project

Following three years of focused implementation of the Global Fund's New Funding Model III (NFM III) project in Ghana's Central region, WAAF begins a new chapter with the launch of the GC7 project.

This move represents a big step forward in WAAF's continued efforts to address HIV/AIDS in West Africa. WAAF's experience and efficacy in addressing the multifaceted issues posed by HIV/AIDS have been explicitly shown by its successful implementation of the NFM III project's objectives. The organization's consistent commitment to delivering complete support services, including prevention, treatment, and care, has earned praise from both stakeholders and beneficiaries. The Global Fund and WAPCAS' decision to entrust WAAF with the implementation of the GC7 project in the Ashanti, Bono, and Bono East regions demonstrates not just the organization's track record, but also its ability to innovate and adapt. As the landscape of HIV/AIDS prevention and management changes, WAAF remains at the forefront, constantly seeking innovative methods and techniques that maximize effect.



## Prioritizing Public Health: Insights from Dr. Vera Oyata's Presentation on Key Diseases"

Dr. Vera Oyata, WAAF's Deputy Executive Director, delivered an insightful presentation on the importance of early reporting for effective control and prevention of certain diseases, including Cholera, Yellow Fever, Measles, Meningitis, Poliomyelitis, and Guinea Worm. She highlighted the need for timely action to safeguard public health. Dr. Oyata's engaging presentation style fostered an atmosphere of readiness among the IHCC team. She began by emphasizing the importance of vaccination against measles, a highly contagious virus affecting primarily children. The discussion also covered Meningitis, Neonatal Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, and Yellow Fever, with a focus on their transmission,

symptoms, and preventive measures. Dr. Oyata stressed the critical role of timely reporting, confirming tests, and vaccinations in preventing the spread of these diseases. Her lecture left a lasting impression, reinforcing the collective responsibility to address public health issues promptly and effectively.



## Celebrating Success: Closure of the USAID Strengthening the Care Continuum Project at WAAF

We are thrilled to announce the successful closure of the USAID Strengthening the Care Continuum Project (CCP) in the Western region of Ghana. Over the past 8 years, the CCP has been instrumental in advancing healthcare services and support systems for individuals affected by HIV/AIDS in communities. Through collaborative efforts and dedicated initiatives, WAAF made significant strides towards enhancing access to quality care, treatment, and support services for



those living with HIV/AIDS. The USAID Strengthening the Care Continuum project significantly enhanced healthcare services for those affected by HIV/AIDS. It expanded and strengthened care within communities, raised awareness through outreach and education, and reduced stigma. The project also focused on capacity building for healthcare workers and community leaders, equipping them to deliver effective care. Additionally, it integrated HIV/AIDS services with other healthcare programs, adopting a holistic approach to improve overall health outcomes.

## Understanding and Coping with Trauma: A Vital Presentation by WAAF Intern Kara Hertz

In our ongoing efforts to foster a resilient community, understanding trauma and learning effective coping strategies are essential. Kara, an intern at WAAF, recently presented “Living with Trauma” at the clinic’s reception, providing invaluable insights to the staff of WAAF and IHCC. Kara explained trauma as any threat causing a sense of insecurity, with a focus on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). She detailed PTSD symptoms, such as intrusive thoughts and emotional changes, and highlighted the importance of self-care and professional help. She also discussed secondary traumatic stress and various trauma offering coping strategies and stressing early intervention.



Additionally, Kara introduced psychological first aid as an immediate response to trauma, emphasizing the importance of identifying triggers and using coping techniques. Kara’s presentation equipped the staff with a comprehensive understanding of trauma and effective ways to support those affected, fostering awareness and encouraging a supportive community.

## Enhancing Safety and Security through Comprehensive Training

WAAF management underwent training by FHI360 EpiC in organizational safety and security protocols and toolkits. Five key staff members—the president, project coordinator, programs manager, M&E officer, and project officer—were trained as Safety and Security Master Trainers through a three-day workshop. Facilitated by Margaret McCarten-Gibbs, the training focused on key security concepts and practical strategies, equipping participants with the skills to identify risks within their organizations and respond to evolving threats. Subsequent sessions, facilitated by the HR and communications managers, covered standard operating procedures, code of ethics, and confidentiality, including guidelines for social media usage, outreach approaches, community engagement, and emergency response plans. Practical demonstrations on fire extinguisher usage were also provided. The final session, led by the M&E officer, focused on documentation and reporting, highlighting the adoption of FHI360 EpiC safety and security M&E tools. Various reporting forms were introduced and explained, emphasizing their role in improving program implementation.

The step-down training enhanced awareness, knowledge, and preparedness regarding safety and security measures among WAAF stakeholders, informing future efforts to strengthen protocols and foster a safe working environment for all involved.



# A Brief Analysis of the Healthy Mother equals Healthy Baby and Shelter Home Programs



A recent evaluation of the Healthy Mother Equals Healthy Baby and Shelter Home Programs highlighted their successes and areas for improvement. Overall, the programs were highly successful, with participants expressing gratitude for the support received. The women involved faced financial hardships, nutritional needs, abuse, and disclosure issues regarding their HIV status. Many were unable to work due to health issues and were selected based on criteria like CD4 count and financial constraints. Key successes included nutritional support, business supplements, medical fee coverage, and social support. The IHCC community provided vital mental health support, and staff noted positive outcomes like no underweight newborns and only one HIV positive baby. Areas for improvement include the need for additional nutritional support, better sustainability post-program, and addressing transportation costs. Recommendations include providing skill training, education on family planning and financial management, and creating a transportation fund. Despite needing enhancements, the programs were a great success, teaching participants to live healthier lives and providing hope. Participants were especially grateful for shelter, nutrition, medicine, and health education.

# GET IN TOUCH 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 2024 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 Ghartey 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 Directorate

Contact Number: 0243675303/ 0243362447

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

### WAAF Ashanti, Bono and Bono East Offices

- **KMA/Atwima Kwamwoma** - Plot No. E7, Daban Pennii, Kumasi Daban

- **Techiman** - TF5564, Diasempa

- **Sunyani** - New Dormaa Extension Pastoral Road Plot No. 188 Ethiopia Junction

- **Obuasi Municipality Community Nyameso** 044 Manganese PTH House N0. Ac-116-7735

- **Bonsu** - Beside Kpogas Furnitures- Tech Traffic Light



@WAAFghana



@WAAF-IHCC



@West Africa AIDS Foundation  
(WAAF)



@waafihcc