



WEST AFRICA AIDS FOUNDATION
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CARE CENTER

2021

ANNUAL
REPORT

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ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ANC	Ante Natal Clinic
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy/ Treatment
ARV	Antiretroviral (drugs)
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CHRAJ	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
DOTs	Directly Observed Therapy short course
DIC	Drop in centre
EpiC	Epidemic Control
FHI 360	Family Health International
GF	Global Fund
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HAF	Hope Alliance Foundation
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IHCC	International Health Care Centre
IP	Implementing Partner
KP	Key Population
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSM	Men who have sex with Men
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission
PORSH	Priorities on Rights and Sexual Health
PR	Principal Recipient
PrEP	Pre Exposure Prophylaxis
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TB	Tuberculosis
USAID	United States Agency International Development
WAAF	West Africa AIDS Foundation
WIYO	Worldwide International Youth Organization

WORD FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISOR



The battle against HIV & AIDS continues and the goal is to achieve HIV Epidemic control and End AIDS by 2030. WAAF therefore has accelerated efforts as the world has embarked on the last mile to reach those goals.

The West Africa AIDS Foundation continues to mitigate the effects of HIV, AIDS and TB on our communities by providing care and support to promote healthier individuals for a better future. Our hope is ever alive, and we are even more determined to achieve an HIV free world.

For the past 22 years, we have consistently worked to make the lives of people living with HIV more comfortable as they enroll onto, and are retained on treatment. Using prevention as a tool, people are educated as accurate knowledge ensures informed decisions when it comes to HIV. Topics we have maintained promoting include abstaining from sex, consistent and correct use of condoms during sex, sexual partner faithfulness, and the uptake of PrEP. WAAF's success strives on partnerships and alliance formation, and we are humbled to be able to work with wonderful partners and stakeholders as our journey continues. We are also glad that we continue to be able to make a difference in the lives of many through differentiated care where clients are always at the center of our services. With our mobile clinic services, we have been able to provide HIV testing services, confirm HIV reactive cases on the spot as well as initiate HIV confirmed cases onto ART at the community level. WAAF thanks the FHI360 and their Ghana EpiC team as well as the NACP for making it possible for us to expand our mobile clinic services as part of DSD efforts. This surely puts our clients at the center of service provision.

Through JSI's USAID Strengthening the Care Continuum project and the WAPCAS/WAAF New Funding Model III project, WAAF continues to encourage PLHIV to remain in care to stay healthy and attain viral load suppression. We continue to work diligently in reaching those lost to follow up and re-enrolling them into care.

Obviously, without the support of our donors, much of what we do would not be possible and we say a huge thank you to all of them: The Global Fund, USAID, UNAIDS, JSI, Stop TB Partnership and many others. Lastly, we cannot forget our cherished and dedicated staff who have carefully and consistently provided care and support to our clients and beneficiaries over the years. Your hard work and dedication, many a time under trying circumstances is very much appreciated and WAAF remains indebted to you.

Dr. Naa Ashiley Vanderpuye - Donton

2021 AT A GLANCE BY THE ACTING CEO



Let me take the opportunity to re-introduce WAAF and IHCC to our cherished readers.

The West Africa AIDS Foundation is a registered non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established and registered in Ghana in 1999 with the Registrar General and the Social Welfare Department.

Our mission has always been to help battle the spread of HIV, AIDS, and TB as well as other diseases and mitigate their effects on communities by providing care and support to promote healthier individuals and for a better future. WAAF works within communities to educate, test, and enroll HIV-positive and TB-positive individuals into care. We also work hard in prevention.

Our partnered onsite community clinic, the International Health Care Center (IHCC), provides care and treatment for all health conditions. Due to the work of WAAF, IHCC compliments their work to complete the care cascade by providing ART services to persons who test positive to HIV. IHCC also encourages PrEP uptake among key and vulnerable populations to prevent the spread of HIV. It also encourages people to know their HIV status. WAAF and IHCC mitigate these effects on communities by implementing intervention programs and establishing care and support centers.

The Year 2021 was an exceptional one with new projects like the WAPCAS Global Fund NFM III project, the fourth phase of the USAID Strengthening the Care Continuum project implemented in the Western region, the second phase of Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control -EpiC project, implemented in the Greater Accra Region, and the UNAIDS funded- WAAF Led and NAP+ and AfED implemented Community-Led Monitoring project, implemented in the Volta region which focused on the accessibility of viral load services for PLHIV. These, among others, were all very important projects from donors and have all been in the interest of Persons Living with HIV.

As we move into 2022, WAAF is excited to continue ongoing projects as we look for new ones, all with the goal of reaching HIV Epidemic Control and Ending AIDS by 2030.

Dr. Paul Sowah, Ag. CEO

OUR VISION

To be a key player of the global effort to develop and support individuals, communities, and nation.

OUR MISSION

To help battle the spread of HIV and AIDS, TB as well as other diseases and mitigate their effect on communities by providing care and support to promote healthier individuals for a better future.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Access to health care for all without discrimination
- Inclusion of choice
- Equal care for women and men
- Zero tolerance for stigmatization
- Confidentiality of client information

USAID STRENGTHENING THE CARE CONTINUUM PROJECT

As part of a global effort to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, WAAF is using methods including index testing, risk network referral, social media referrals, education, advocacy, and research to achieve this vision in Ghana. The project, USAID Strengthening the Care Continuum is being implemented in four districts in the Western region: Ahanta West, Ellembele, Jomoro, and Nzema East. The project targets men who have sex with men (MSM), female sex workers (FSW), and the general population (GP).

Reach

Peer educators play a vital role in educating communities and members of their district on HIV, STIs, Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence (GBV/IPV), risk assessment/ risk screening, and distribution of condoms and lubricants. Thanks to their hard work, a total of 2,233 people (902 MSM, 343 FSW, 988 GP) were reached across all four districts from October 2020 to September 2021.

In Ahanta West, 204 MSM, 343 FSW, and 900 GP were reached. 295 MSM and 32 GP in Ellembele, 311 MSM and 33 GP were reached in Jomoro and 92 MSM and 5 GP were reached in Nzema East. Female GP reached in the Ellembele, Jomoro, and Nzema East districts were gathered through index testing.

Testing

WAAF conducted HIV targeted testing strategies for those who were at high risk. A total of 2,122 people (877 MSM, 340 FSW, and 905 GP) were tested across all four districts in 2021. Out of the 2,122 tested, 188 tested positive resulting in a positivity yield of 8.9%.

In Ahanta West, 1358 people (201 MSM, 340 FSW, and 817 GP) were tested with 65 tests positive for HIV (4.8% positivity yield). In Ellembele, 316 people (284 MSM, 32 GP) were tested with 61 testing positive for HIV (19.3% positivity yield). In Jomoro 338 people (305 MSM, 33 GP) were tested with 45 tests positive (14.7% positivity yield). In Nzema East, 92 people (87 MSM, 5 GP) were tested with 12 testing positive for HIV (13% positivity yield).

Through index testing, 97 positive people were offered index testing services. Of these, 83 were accepted, 115 contacts were elicited, 88 contacts were tested, 51 were new positive cases, 1 was a known positive case and 58 new negatives were identified.

Initiation

139 of the 188 positive cases found were initiated onto treatment representing a 73.9% initiation rate. The remaining cases are being followed up by project volunteers to ensure ART initiation.

50 HIV Self-Test kits provided to targeted individuals were utilized by the community members. 1 reactive case was identified through this approach and was linked to treatment. A total of 58 clients were enrolled on PrEP and 93 clients who were lost to follow-up were brought back to care.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2021

In Ahanta West, 419 people (61 MSM, 110 FSW, and 248 GP) were tested with 13 testing positive to HIV (3.1% positivity yield). In Ellembele, 95 people (91 MSM, 4 GP) were tested with 17 testing positive (18% positivity yield). In Jomoro 92 people (82 MSM, 10 GP) were tested with 14 testing positive (15.2% positivity yield). In Nzema East, 31 people (29 MSM, 2 GP) were tested with 3 testing positive for HIV (9.7% positivity yield).

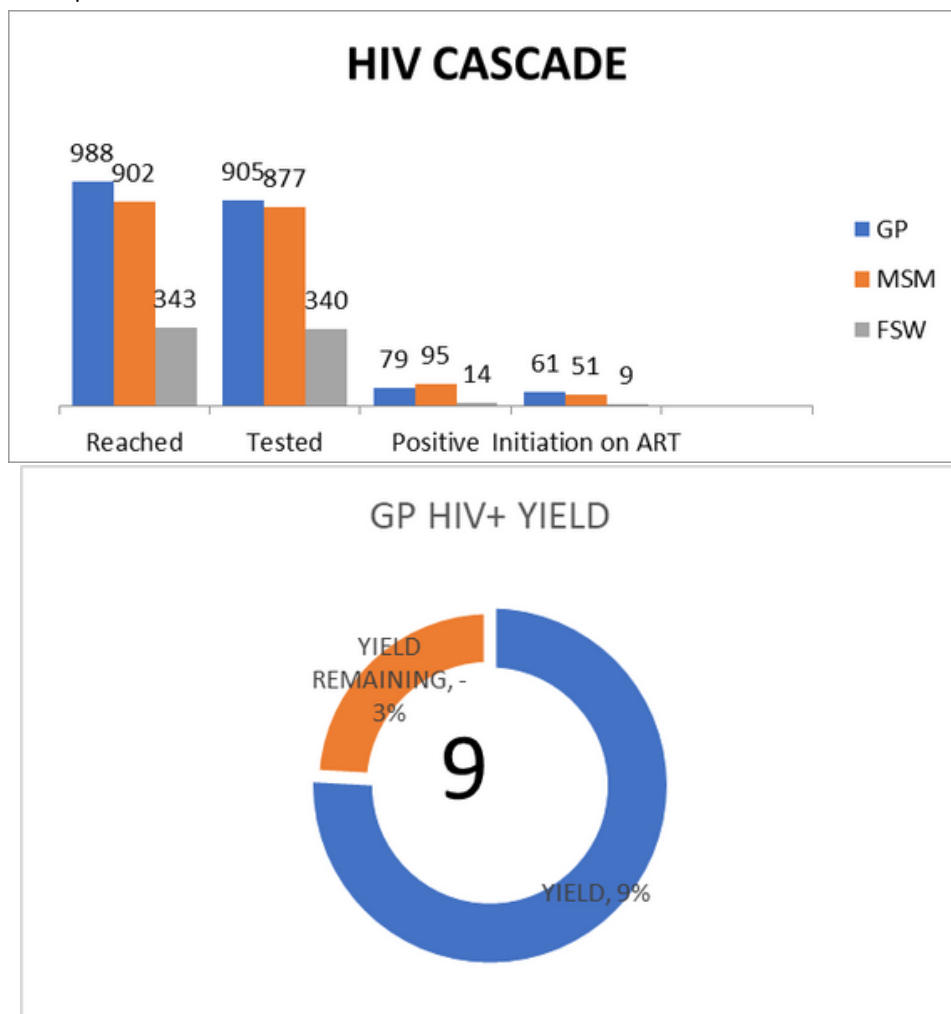
Through index testing, 30 positive people were offered index testing services. Of these, 29 accepted, 50 contacts were elicited, 49 contacts were tested, 13 were new positive cases, 1 was a known positive case and 35 new negatives were identified.

Initiation

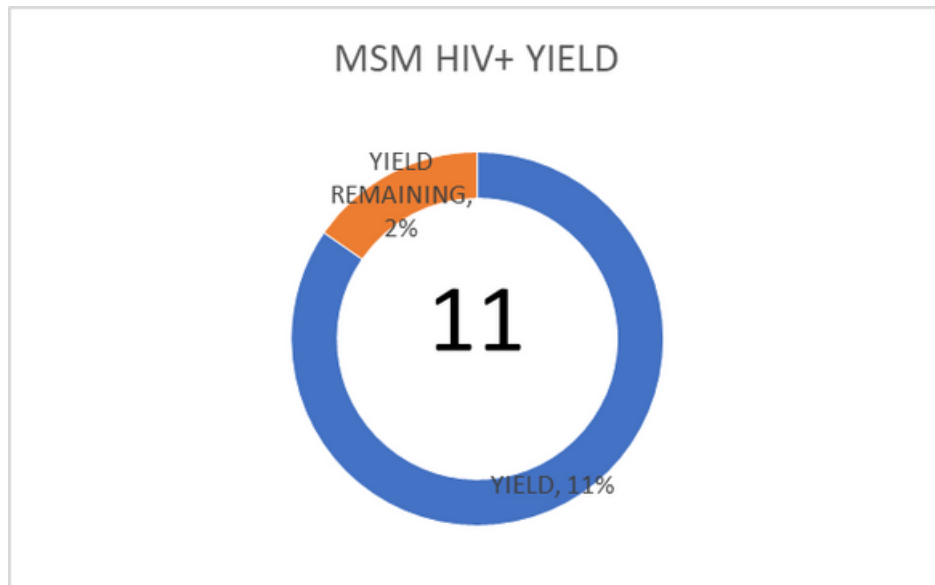
The team at WAAF does its best to initiate positive persons onto Antiretroviral Therapy/Treatment (ART). 34 of the 47 positive cases found were initiated onto treatment in the fourth quarter representing 72.3% initiation rate.

Self-testing kits were introduced and 30 out of the 50 kits provided were given to community members. 1 community member was reactive and was linked to treatment. PrEP was also introduced, and 57 clients were enrolled in PrEP. A total of 83 clients were lost follow up were brought back into care.

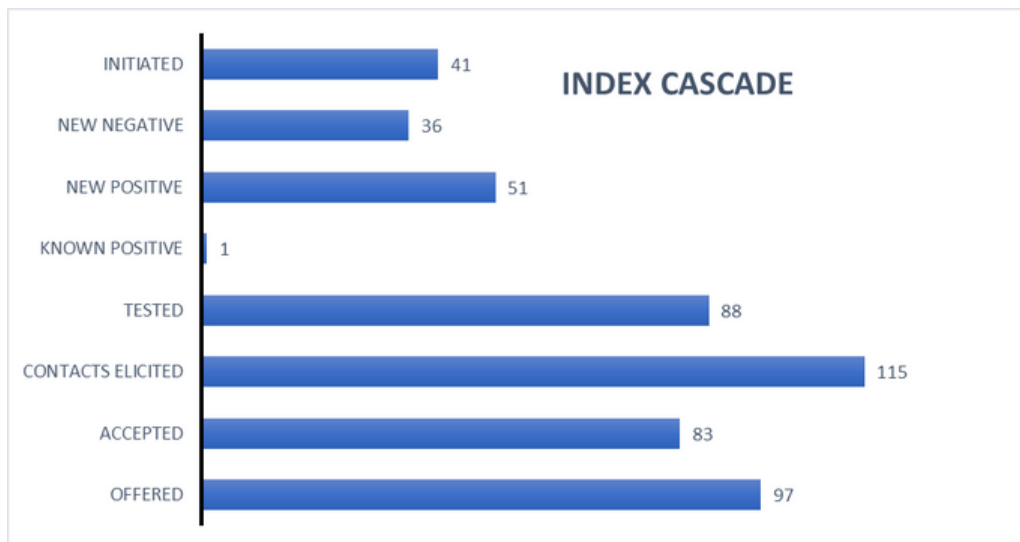
Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Ambassadors' training was organized for some key MSM across the four implementing districts. A total of 13 volunteers were trained as GBV Ambassadors. These volunteers mobilized peers within their districts and educated them on the risks of GBV.



GP POSITIVITY TARGET AT 6%



MSM POSITIVITY TARGET AT 13%



WAPCAS – GLOBAL FUND NEW FUNDING MODEL III [NFM III] PROJECT

In 2021 WAAF and WAPCAS signed an MOU for the implementation of the WAPCAS GLOBAL FUND NFM III project titled “Scaling up quality HIV Care Cascade through Community Engagement and Addressing Human Rights Barriers.” This made WAAF one of the Sub Recipients of the Global Fund KP Grant. Since 11th January 2021, WAAF has continued to implement key project activities with zeal. The project is being implemented in 8 Districts in the Central Region namely, Komenda Edina Eguafo Abirem Municipal Awutu Senya and Upper Denkyira East Municipal.



To effectively carry out project activities in the various districts, 5 Field Officers were recruited to oversee project implementation in the 8 assigned districts and to ensure onsite visibility and effective coordination. Further to the engagement of the Field Officers, 5 Project Field offices were set up and opened in 5 of the implementing districts to facilitate administrative and field implementation work. Additionally, 5 cadres of field volunteers namely Peer Navigators, Peer Paralegals, Case Managers, DIC Attendants, and DIC Support Nurses were also recruited and trained to support project implementation and ensure the achievement of the project’s goal and objectives.

The 37 Peer Navigators on the project have continued to provide prevention education on HIV and AIDS, STI, TB, condom use, PrEP, HIV Self Testing, safer sex, and risk reduction in 37 microsites across the 8 districts.

The 12 Peer Paralegals also provided education on Human Rights, SGBV, stigma and discrimination, the Patients Charter, and the Ghana AIDS Commission Act 938 to MSM peers and supported those who faced Human Rights abuse and linked them to law enforcement agencies and available legal services.

Other groups such as M-Friends (These are Key stakeholders who understand issues of KPs and help to address any Human Rights issues within the community) and M-Watchers (These are KP volunteers who watch over and support the community when in need) were also engaged to dialogue on issues affecting the MSM community and propose best ways to address issues of violence, discrimination, and abuse against peers in the various implementing districts.

Case Managers, DIC attendants, and DIC Support nurses also provided further education and clinical services such as HIV testing, STI management, and PrEP services to KPs reached and referred by Peer Navigators.

Peer Navigators across the 8 project districts reached out to a total of 6,817 beneficiary populations and provided them with prevention education and referral for HIV Testing Services, STI screening, and management, TB screening and treatment as well as PrEP eligibility screening initiation. A total of 95 peers were also initiated on PrEP.

Utilizing social media as one of the strategies to reach MSM peers, various social media teams were formed in all the 8 project districts to carry out prevention education and referral for HIV Testing and STI screening and treatment services. The Social media platforms commonly used by the teams were Grindr, Blued, Tinder, Hornet, Facebook, Instagram, etc.

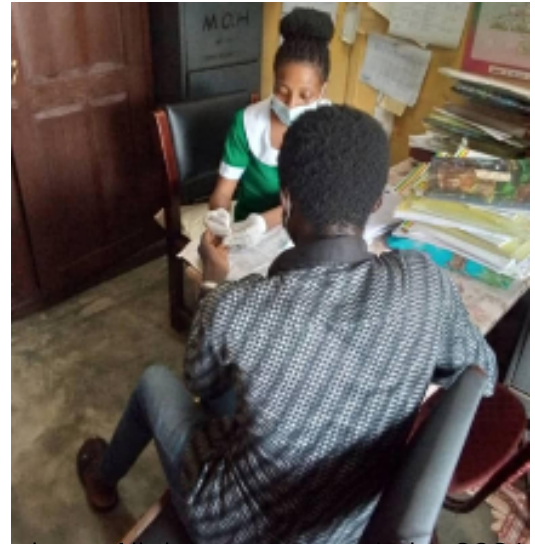
Additionally, 175,067 lubricated male condoms and 42,297 water-based lubricants were distributed to peers across the districts for free to support efforts in keeping peers safe from STIs. These commodities were distributed during daily one-on-one and small group peers education activities which were conducted by Peer Navigators.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2021

Condom distribution outlets were also created in various hotspots enabling peers to easily access free condoms and water-based lubricants.

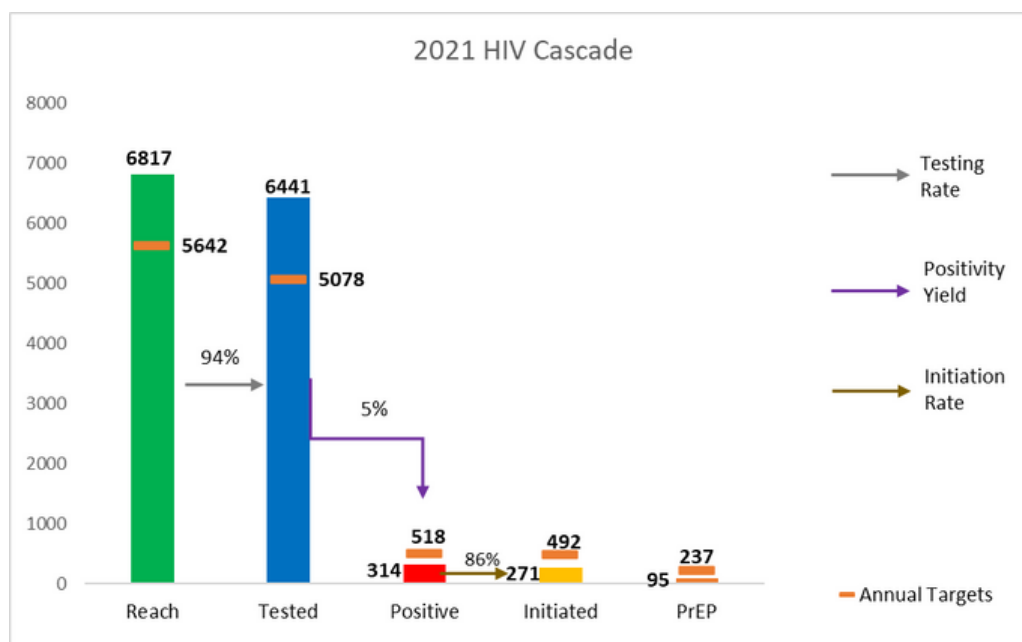
In 2021, 6,449 peers received HIV testing services through the various testing modalities namely, Community HIV Testing Services, Facility referral, Peer-led testing, and DIC referral. Of all who received HIV testing, 314 persons tested positive for HIV (which represents 5% positivity yield). A total of 271 out of the number testing positive for HIV were initiated on ART representing (86% initiation rate).

The 12 Peer Paralegals supported and documented a total of 25 cases of Human Rights abuse and violence against MSM across the 8 project districts. All the cases were followed up by Peer Paralegals and referred to the appropriate quarters for redress. All the cases recorded in 2021 have been resolved.



As part of efforts to ensure improved access to primary healthcare, 275 peers were mobilized and supported to enroll in the National Health insurance Scheme with new registrations, renewals, and card replacements.

Below is the HIV cascade for the 2021 project year.



MEETING TARGETS, MAINTAINING EPIDEMIC CONTROL (EPiC)

Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EPiC) is a global project funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The project is led by FHI 360 and has a five-year period of performance from April 15, 2019 – April 14, 2024. It is dedicated to achieving and maintaining HIV epidemic control.

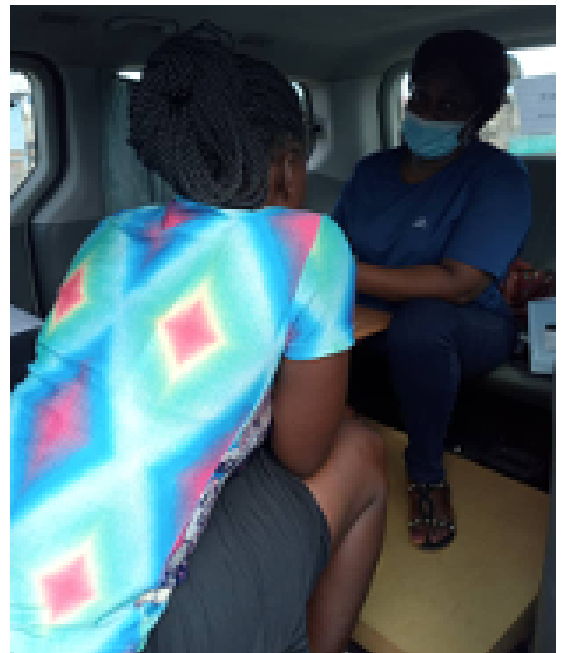
WAAF's specific objectives for this project are to contribute to the attainment of HIV epidemic control among at-risk adult men, women, and priority populations, support the transition of prime funding, and the implementation to capable local partners, and meet the PEPFAR goal of 70% of funding to local partners by 2020.

Towards the attainment of EPiC objectives, WAAF implemented significant initiatives geared towards filling existing HIV prevention, case finding, and treatment gaps, and on building long-term sustainability to attain and maintain the epidemic. These initiatives were undertaken collaboratively with two 2nd Tier organizations; Hope Alliance Foundation (HAF) and Worldwide International Youth Organization (WIYO) then later, the Priorities on Rights and Sexual Health (PORSH) as HAF opted out of the project. In addition to offline engagements with high-risk populations, online platforms were also leveraged to provide safe, convenient, client-centered HIV services, including outreaches, linkage to testing, and case management.

To address the loopholes in reaching and testing key populations, who are currently not being reached by existing HIV testing services, HIV Self Testing was integrated in February 2021 as a confidential and convenient option for testing. HIV Self-Testing also helped in overcoming barriers related to Stigma, discrimination, and Confidentiality concerns. This alternative approach allowed trained health care providers, Peer Educators, and Lay Counsellors of WAAF, WIYO, HAF, then later PORSH to create demand for PrEP, and provide effective and accurate HIV testing services to their peers either through assisted HIVST; giving individuals an in-person demonstration before or during HIVST of how to perform the test and interpret the test result. For individuals who wanted to conduct the test on their own (unassisted), kits were provided to them to enable them to do so and report their results. HIVST kits were distributed to the Peer Educators to conduct assisted testing with the support of IHCC.

100 HIVST kits were distributed to FSW and all kits were used (57 assisted, 43 unassisted). 5 turned up reactive, out of which, 3 were confirmed then 2 were initiated on ARVs. All 100 FSW were first-time testers.

550 HIVST kits were also distributed to and used by MSM (386 were unassisted, 164 were assisted), 463(146 assisted and 317 unassisted) were first-time testers. 45(14 assisted and 31 unassisted) turned up reactive, out of which 34 MSM (11 assisted and 23 unassisted) were confirmed positive and 32 (21 assisted and 21 unassisted) were then initiated on ARV.



PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2021

26 HIVST kits were distributed to TG people. All 26 kits were used (17 were assisted, 9 were unassisted). 3 were reactive, and all 3 were confirmed and initiated on ARVs.

As the project progressed, it was identified that PrEP retention was low as some peers were defaulting and discontinuing PrEP. This led to a new strategy and approach utilizing PrEP Champions. This strategy was aimed at reaching key populations through PrEP users turned advocates/ champions who are happy to help or have been in the process of making their own decision by getting and using PrEP. These individuals contributed significantly to educating and creating awareness about PrEP hence encouraging others to make informed decisions on its use.

In 2021, it was noticed that distance served as a barrier in getting PrEP clients to pick up their monthly PrEP medications. To overcome this barrier and increase PrEP refill among KPs already initiated, WAAF trained second-tier staff as community refill providers. The purpose of this strategy was to make refill services easily accessible to the PrEP clients whenever they needed them. WAAF also provided services to clients in their communities with the use of the Mobile Clinic Van. The Van provided HIVST, PrEP as well as counseling services to clients at their places of convenience. These services were provided with the help of health care workers at IHCC.

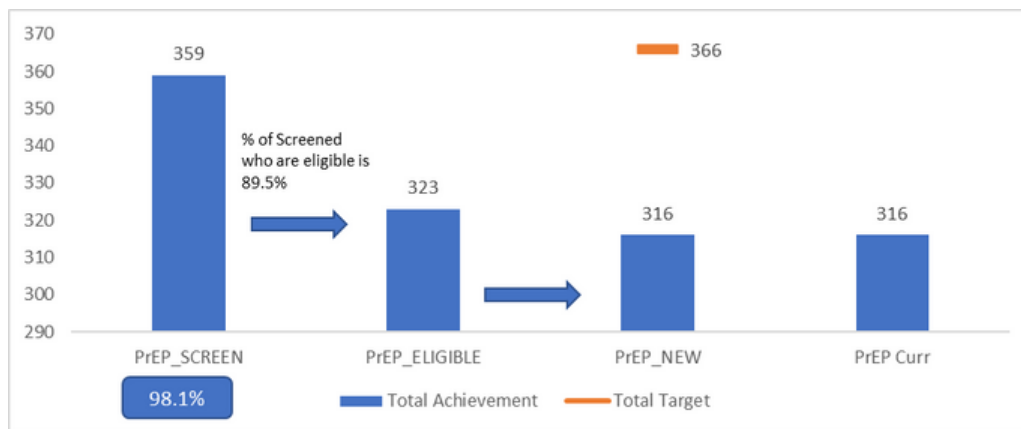
During project implementation in 2021, WAAF organized several trainings, workshops, and activities to help build the capacity of staff and volunteers of implementing partners for improved project performance and service delivery. These implementing partners were mainly Hope Alliance Foundation (HAF) then later Priorities On Rights Sexual Health (PORSH) and World International Youth Organization (WIYO).

These trainings included:

- HIVST training of trainers' workshop of for WAAF partners in February 2021
- Step down training for WIYO and HAF
- Participation in EPIC KPIF lives training in March 2021
- Training on HIV first response testing and Provision of community PrEP refill in April 2021.
- Refresher training for WAAF's implementing partners.
- Organized monthly review meetings with subs
- Participation in virtual West Africa Learning Network's webinar/meetings.
- Participation in partner learning exchange meetings.

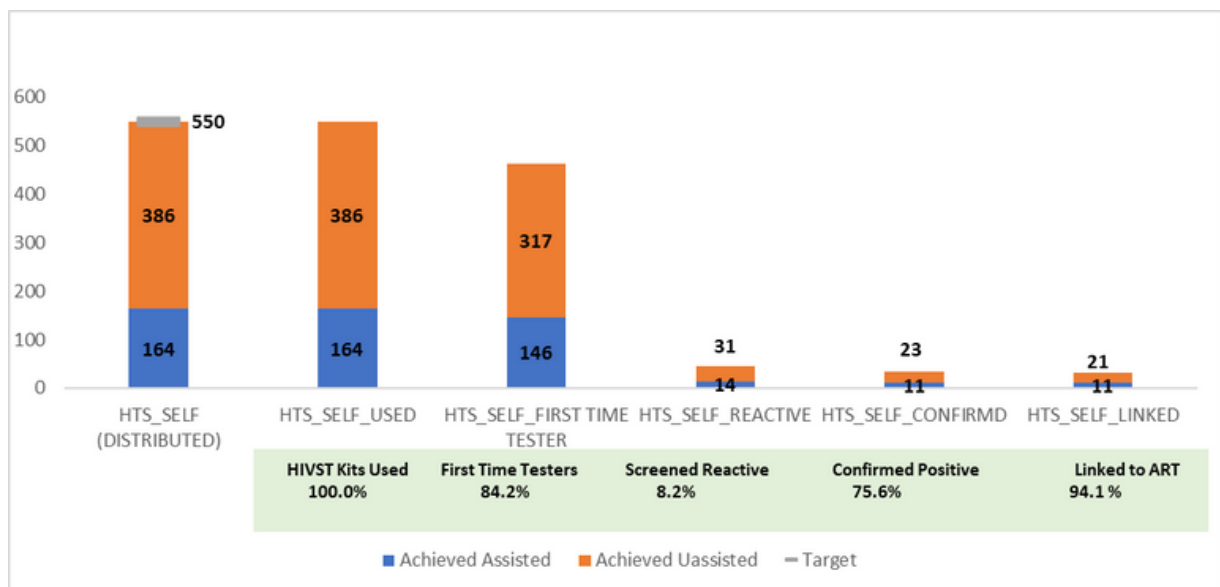


Figure 1.0: PrEP cascade among all KPs, FY21, October 2020 – September 2021



Description: In the graph above, 359 KPs were screened for PrEP. 323 KPs screened were eligible for PrEP, 316 have been initiated on PrEP. However, 36 were non eligible because they tested positive to HIV

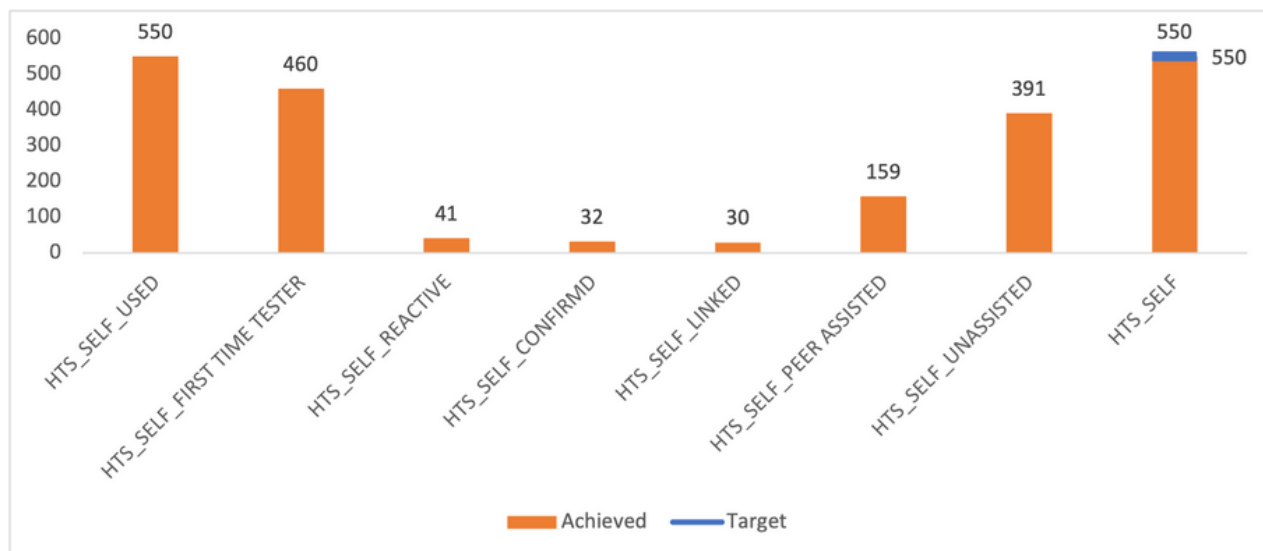
Figure 6.0: HIV self-testing cascade among All KP, FY21, October 2020 – September 2021



Description: In the table above, 550 HIVST kits were distributed and 550 HIVST kits were used. 463 KPs were first time testers. 164 clients tested through the peer assisted method and 386 clients tested through the unassisted method. 45 KPs tested reactive, 34 of them were confirmed positive and 32 of them were linked to and initiated on ART. 6 MSM clients were confirmed HIV negative.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2021

Figure : HIV self-testing cascade among All KP, FY21, October 2020 – September 2021



Description: In the table above, 550 HIVST kits were distributed and 550 HIVST kits were used. 460 KPs were first time testers. 159 clients tested through the peer assisted method and 391 clients tested through the unassisted method. 41 KPs tested reactive, 32 of them were confirmed positive and 30 of them were linked to and initiated on ART.

COMMUNITY LEVEL ACTIVE TB CASE FINDING



WAAF, being a member of Stop TB Partnership Ghana, continues to undertake activities in TB case finding and screening to enhance early detection, timely treatment, and overall prevention. From January – December 2021, WAAF collaborated with the Sekondi Takoradi Metro Health Directorate, public health nurses, and community TB volunteers to conduct TB screening outreaches within urban slums and high-risk communities within the Sekondi Takoradi Metropolis. Overall, there were 1,414 persons screened for TB. 193 eligible cases were referred for

testing and/or had their samples collected on the spot. 178 samples were eventually tested resulting in 19 new positive TB cases. 16 were linked to and initiated on treatment. Close contacts of identified TB cases was also screened, to ensure that contacts with symptoms of TB are screened and tested as well.

During the two grant periods of 2021 (January – June, and July – December 2021), a total of 1,114 persons were screened for TB. 197 of them showed symptoms of TB, hence were eligible for TB testing. Thus, 197 sputum samples were collected and sent to health facilities for testing, however only 178 were tested and results were received. A total of 19 people tested positive to TB. Through the efforts of the TB volunteers, 16 of the diagnosed cases were successfully linked to treatment.

In 2021, TB contact tracing activities resulted in reaching 21 contacts with TB screening. Only one contact was eligible for testing and the was negative to TB.



IMPAACT4TB: TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTIVE THERAPY PROJECT

In August 2020, WAAF was awarded a one-year small grant advocacy project on a short course (3HP) Tuberculosis Preventive Therapy by Treatment Action Group Inc. (TAG).

The project, titled “Increase the knowledge of and demand for TPT among Health Care Workers & PLHIV in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana” had its main goal of achieving exactly what the title states: an increase of knowledge and an increase in demand for Tuberculosis Preventive Therapy among both Health Care workers (HCWs) in selected ART facilities, as well as among PLHIV receiving services from these facilities. The project was implemented in October 2020 and ended in July 2021.

To achieve the project’s goal of increasing knowledge and demand, WAAF selected 6 ART facilities within the Greater Accra Region. The selection was done with the help of key stakeholders like the National AIDS Control Program (NACP) and the National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP). With the support of 20 engaged health care workers (HCWs) from the selected facilities, advocacy was provided through 3 approaches with the common effort to educate PLHIV on TPT’s benefits and availability. Through these approaches, a total of 12,999 PLHIV received information on TPT.

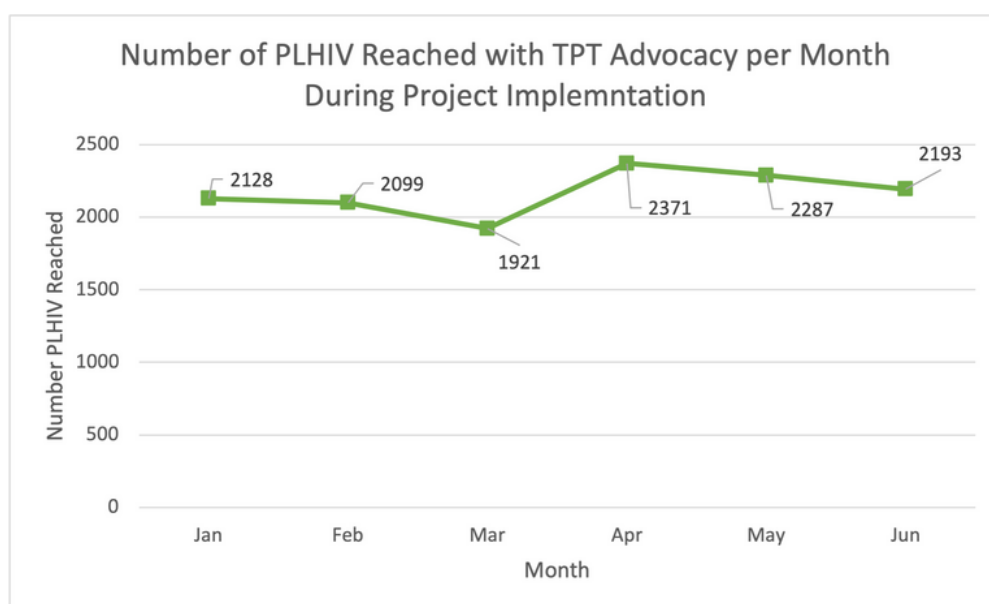
Major takeaways include:

1. Expanding the advocacy focus from 3HP to include IPT, TPT contributed to making the project successful
2. Unavailability of TPT commodities and cost related to X-ray screening were identified to be the two major barriers to TPT uptake, but the revision of TPT guidelines removed this challenge in the latter half of implementation
3. TPT is highly acceptable among PLHIV

Overall, the project showcased that advocacy on TPT resulted in an increase demand for it by PLHIV and in its supply by HCWs. Together, this contributed to the significant increased uptake of TPT within the implementing facilities which makes the project confident that it will advance efforts in the fight against TB and enhance HIV treatment outcomes.



The graphs below depict the present a further breakdown of this accomplishment.



INCREASING ACCESS TO VIRAL LOAD SERVICES FOR PLHIV INCLUDING KP- LHIV THROUGH EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY LED MONITORING

Most countries, including Ghana are on an agenda to reach HIV epidemic control and end AIDS by 2030. To do this, the UNAIDS set targets of 95-95-95 goals which state that 95% of people living with HIV know their status, 95% of those who know their status are enrolled in care and 95% of those enrolled in care will achieve viral suppression.

Despite efforts to achieve these goals, Ghana has continued to lag in these targets; especially the last 95% which has continued to remain a challenge. Various reasons have accounted for this including low demand from the side of clients to facility-level challenges such as broken-down equipment.

To help address some of these challenges, UNAIDS Ghana in collaboration with the Ghana Health Services and the NACP initiated a Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD) project comprising a facility level Enhanced Viral Load Services Component and a Community Led Monitoring Component. The project is being piloted in the Volta Region of Ghana with the intention of further expanding to other regions of the country.



The West Africa Aids Foundation (WAAF) was awarded the Community-Led Monitoring (CLM) component of the DSD project and was tasked to lead and provide technical support to community members in the monitoring of the viral load services from the perspective of beneficiaries namely, Persons Living with HIV. The project sought to attain best practices in both facility-level viral load services and the community's active participation in the process for future scale-up to help Ghana achieve the last 95 of the 95-95-95 goals.

The project "Increasing Access to Viral Load Services for PLHIV including KP-LHIV through Effective



Community-Led Monitoring (CLM)" was implemented from July 2021 – October 2021 in 3 districts in the Volta Region of Ghana. The goal of the project was to build capacity of people who are living with HIV (PLHIV) and support them to collect data which would help in identifying progress and challenges related to viral load testing services from the various ART facilities within the 3 districts. This Community Led Monitoring (CLM) process would aim at resulting in a positive change in

the quality of viral load services and then the overall well-being of PLHIV. A 2-day training was held in July 2021 to train the 10 selected Community Monitors on the CLM process and the data collection process as well as the tools. Monitors were then paired and assigned districts in which they were to work. The project had 4 objectives, which were;

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2021

- 1.To identify any active CLM project for possible collaboration including adaptation of existing CLM tools
- 2.To identify PLHIV and KP-LHIV community groups within the project geographical area with the requisite knowledge and interest in having their capacity built to act as CLM process implementers
- 3.To train these identified PLHIV and KP community groups in the UNAIDS defined CLM process definition
- 4.To have trained PLHIV and KP community groups implement the CLM process with backstopping and technical assistance from WAAF and UNAIDS

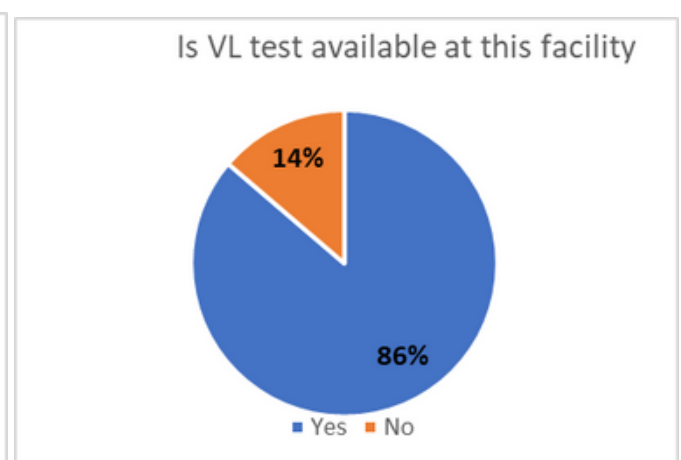
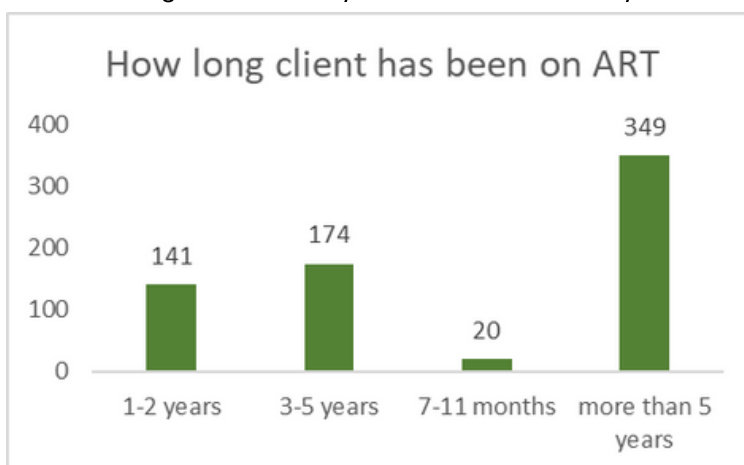
With backstopping and technical assistance from WAAF, the Community Monitors were trained to collect data on 5 key thematic areas: Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability, Affordability and Appropriateness. The monitors had the target of interviewing and collecting data on 700 peers. They exceeded the target by reaching 788 people. After cleaning, 684 respondents' data as used for analysis. Key demographics of respondents include; 76% were females while 24% were males and most were 25 – 49 years-old.

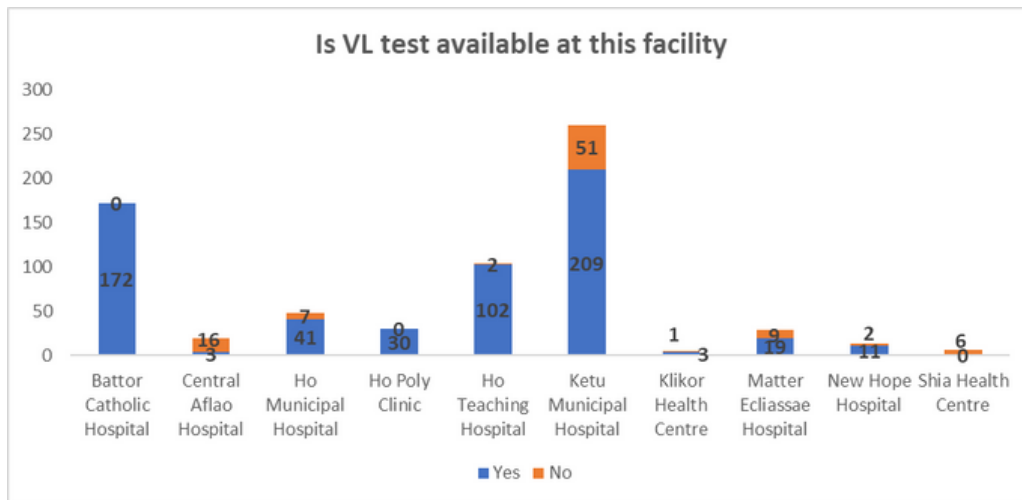
Some best practices that were used in facilitating the data collection process were:

1. A pre-orientation of PLHIV clients by ART nurses prior to conducting interviews to assure confidentiality and reduce stigma
2. The strong collaboration between health facility nurses and Monitors made scheduling and data collection more effective,
3. Communication (airtime/data) for ART Nurses facilitated easy scheduling of appointments for clients to be interviewed
4. The creation of a WhatsApp group for WAAF, NAP+, AfED and Community-Led Monitors facilitated easy information sharing and on the spot responses to challenges encountered on the field.

Moving forward, WAAF plans to include ART nurses and data officers in joint training sessions with Monitors, send official introductory letters to target facilities prior to data collection exercise, incentivize volunteers with an allowance, encourage virtual and phone interviews, and finally recommends that all 16 regions in Ghana should have a functioning viral load machine with an appropriate maintenance policy that is adhered to.

Below are figures with key statistical takeaways:





Above is the distribution of client response on availability of viral load per facility. Aside from Shia, Aflao, which recorded a high number of respondents indicating that viral load was not available at the facility, a high number of clients responded that viral load was available to them in the other facilities as showcased in the graph above.

METHODIST WOMEN FELLOWSHIP DONATION TO IHCC



For several years, the Methodist Women Fellowship Adabraka Branch have consistently made donations in cash and gifts to make life more comfortable for our PLHIV. This has been due to the challenges people living with HIV go through in order to stay alive and healthy. They meet a group of our clients, share words of prayer and encouragement, after which they make their donations. These donations are shared among all our clients present in the meeting as soon as the meeting is over. Their donations to clients are mostly made up of food items, toiletries, and monetary contributions which all go a long way to

supplement what the clients make from their daily earnings. They also offer prayers to God for PLHIV in Ghana and the world. These donations mean a lot to our clients' lives. WAAF & IHCC are grateful to the members of the Methodist Women's Fellowship: Adabraka Branch for their thoughtfulness and their generosity towards our clients.

HEALTHY MOTHER EQUALS HEALTHY BABY

Over the years, WAAF- IHCC has held the care of pregnant, and lactating mothers as well as their babies at its core. This passion led to the establishment of the Health mother = Healthy Baby program which has run actively for the past xxx The Healthy Mother equals Healthy Baby (HM=HB) is a program that supports and educates pregnant women and lactating mothers who are HIV positive on how to live healthily and also take great care of their babies to ensure they stay negative.



Along the line, Gladstar Ministry, an organization based in the United States became the funder of this program and is being actively coordinated by the International Health Care Center (IHCC). Once every month, pregnant women and lactating mothers who access care at the International Health Care Centre are brought together to be educated on one health issue or the other. Educational programs and topics shared and discussed during the monthly meetings include exclusive breastfeeding, COVID-19 prevention, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and postpartum depression.

One challenge that has been identified for these mothers is that results of the DNA PCR samples taken from the exposed infants after delivery have not been available due to the unavailability of the test being run because the machine has been broken down, IHCC has not received results for DNA PCR tests throughout 2021. As a result, mothers are being encouraged to adhere to their treatment and give their babies necessary prophylaxis to keep their babies healthy and strong.

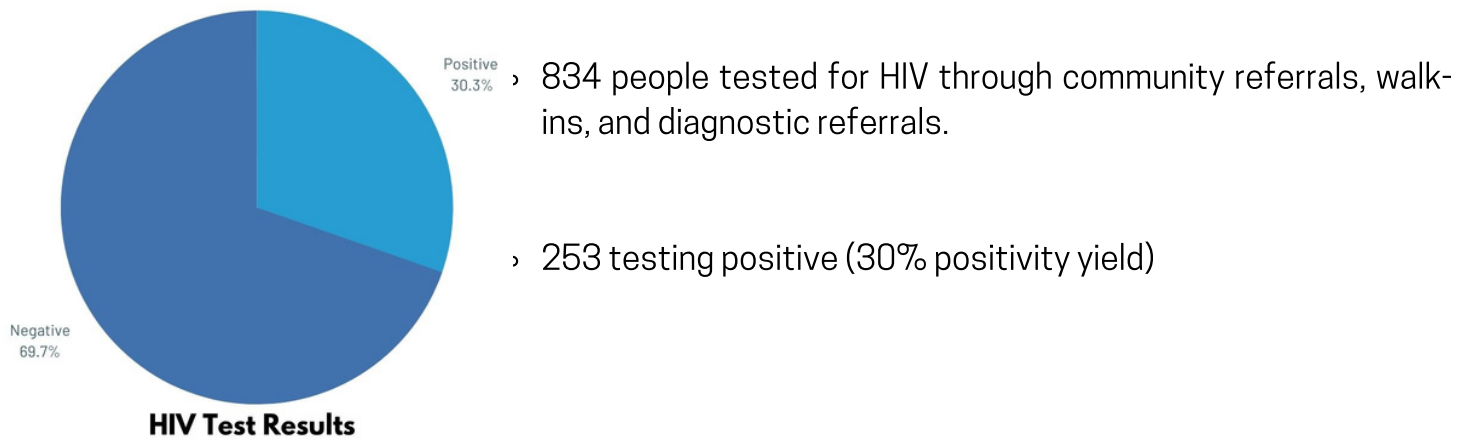


The International Health Care Centre located in Haatso in the Greater Accra region of Ghana is a private clinic that caters to persons with general health needs and has extensive experience in HIV and TB treatment services. IHCC holds dearly the health of the general population which is evident in its cost of services to clients. IHCC offers Differentiated Service Delivery to its clients as against the one cup fits all style often seen in other facilities. General OPD services, first aid, wound dressing, family planning, and laboratory services are among some of the services available at IHCC.

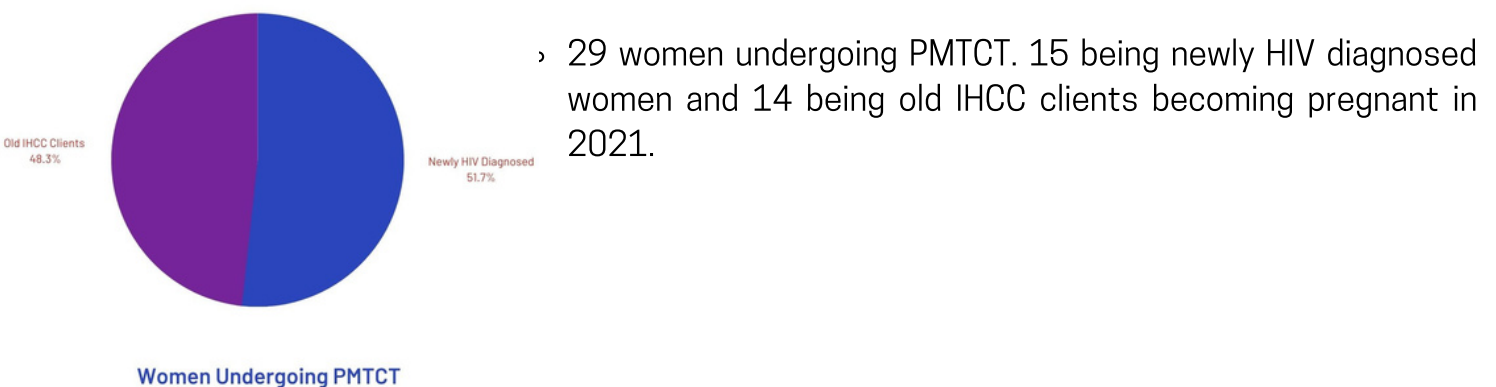
With more than 20 years of experience in HIV care, IHCC provides high-quality services in line with the national guidelines. IHCC accepts private Health Insurance like Metropolitan Health Insurance, Empire Mutual Health, Premier Mutual Health, Cosmopolitan, Acacia, and GAB Health Insurance. Not only does IHCC provide care and treatment for health conditions such as HIV, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, malaria, typhoid, and so many others, but it also provides preventive medicine like cervical cancer screening, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, and Hep B vaccination. To deliver services to clients at their convenience, IHCC provides Mobile Clinic services, home care, medication delivery, fast track services as well as community screening services. IHCC also undertakes corporate screening for staff at the workplace and educates them on health topics that relate to the public as well as topics of health concern to the industry in which they operate. After the training, certificates are awarded to the staff who successfully participate and complete the training.

2021 IHCC Care Outcome

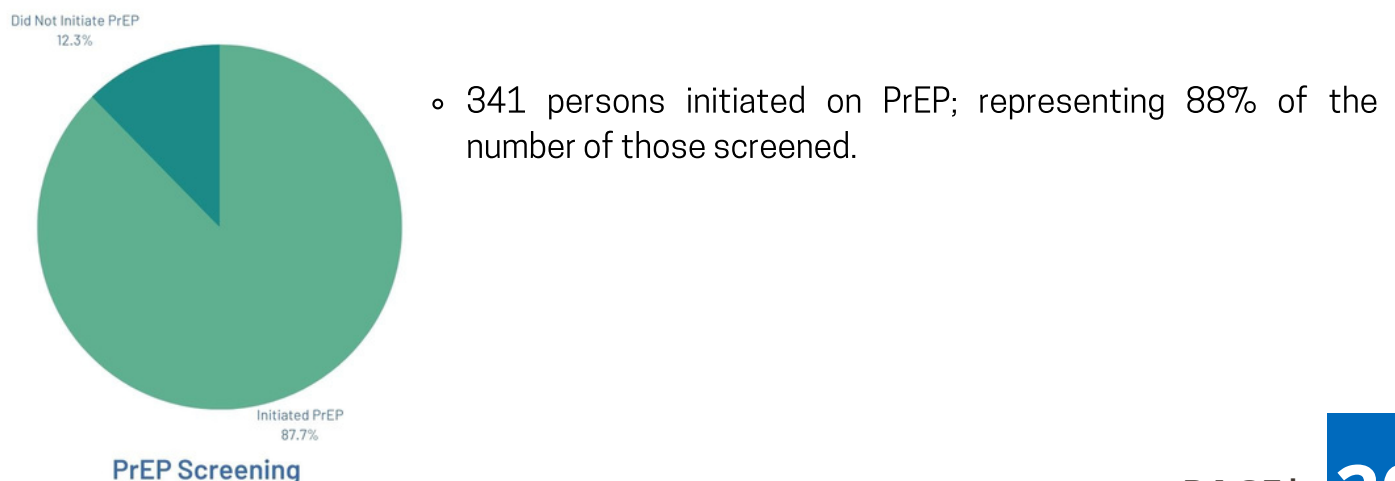
In the year under review, 313 people were linked to care and initiated treatment at IHCC.



- 193 people (76%) enrolled in care and initiated treatment
- Viral load testing services were unavailable during the year 2021, hence client's viral load suppression rate could not be measured.



- 6 TB cases were identified at the facility through daily screenings amongst visiting clients, all 6 were initiated treatment.
- 389 persons screened for PrEP



KEY EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS, OUTREACHES & DONATIONS IN 2021

WAAF BUILDS CAPACITY FOR STAFF

At WAAF, the belief has always been that investing in the engine of the organization, which is the staff, leads to success and enhanced performance. Therefore, we grab every opportunity to unlearn the old and learn the new as we grow and evolve as an organization and as individuals working in it. It is with this understanding that



the management of WAAF saw the need to enhance the capacity of all project staff in the areas of work plan development, report writing, and monitoring and evaluation by providing a training workshop. The training was also needed due to the constantly changing trends of donor requirements, project implementation styles, approved lines/ channels of communication, activity report writing and the continuous setting up of WAAF's satellite offices as more projects come on board. This training was led by Mr. Daniel Alimo; WAAF's Program Planning, Monitoring Evaluation, and Learning Consultant. Other facilitators and resource persons were: Dr. Vera Opata - WAAF's Board of Directors Chairperson, Dr. Naa Ashiley Vanderpuye-Donton - WAAF's Technical Advisor, and the WAAF Ag. CEO - Dr. Paul Sowah. During the training, staff were taken through understanding and complying with key policies, processes, procedures of the organization, and the value for money framework.

The training also covered grant management, weekly work plan preparation, and the need to frequently update stakeholders on the work we do by giving proper information to the communications department to keep our website and social media handles active. After the training, staff had a better understanding of project terminologies such as results, outputs, and outcomes whilst also gaining better insight into WAAF's organogram, business model, and key policies, processes, and procedures.

Further, staff was encouraged to continue to collaborate with each other whilst following protocols set by the organization. Overall, participants left with enhanced knowledge on activity report writing, project work plan development, monitoring and evaluation of projects implemented as well as the importance of adhering to deadlines etc.

KEY EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS, OUTREACHES & DONATIONS IN 2021

2021 WORLD AIDS DAY ACTIVITIES



World AIDS Day continues to be an important day for PLHIV and West Africa AIDS Foundation. Each year, WAAF joins the community and world in commemorating the day!

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

enlightening the public on such matters. Starting off with a month-long activity centered around community-level education, screening/referral of identified cases for further care, and radio and TV sessions, the World AIDS Day activities were crowned with an exhibition and HIV testing & counseling durbar. This was organized by the Ghana AIDS Commission and took place at the forecourt of the Trade fair Centre LA in the Greater Accra Region where all HIV-focused NGOs in Ghana took part, including WAAF.

WAAF demonstrated the correct use of both 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 those 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 for further reading.

A total of 80 people tested for HIV, comprising of 27 females and 53 males. 2 tested positive, of which 1 already knew her status. The one new positive was referred for further care.



KEY EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS, OUTREACHES & DONATIONS IN 2021

2021 CARE FOR THE CAREGIVERS

After over 20 years of working in Ghana, contributing to battling HIV/AIDS, the leadership of the International Health Care Centre (IHCC) and the West Africa AIDS Foundation (WAAF) appreciated and celebrated their unsung heroes (their dedicated caregivers) as well as implementing partners, ally organizations and stakeholders. This was done through an End of Year event dubbed “Care for the Caregiver” It was a colorful occasion on the night of 10th



December 2021 at the WAAF-IHCC premises located in Haatso, Accra in the Greater Accra region of Ghana. It 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, and various stakeholders who have continued to support WAAF/IHCC along their journey.

The evening was decorated with beautiful performances from music stars like Labanj Sacs, and Ghana’s sweetheart Chayuta. They ensured melodious tunes which graced the event as we wine and dined.

Key amongst those who attended were Madam Cecilia Senoo - Executive Director Hope for Future Generation, representatives of the Calvary Methodist Women’s Fellowship, Representatives from the National Association of Persons Living with HIV, WAAF’s implementing partners - PORSH, WIYO, representatives from health facilities in the Haatso area such as Sam J specialist hospital, etc. WAAF/IHCC’s partners in the media were not left out as we had GHone, Joy news, 3fm, Daily Graphic, and Starr FM in attendance.

All those who attended joined the WAAF-IHCC leadership in celebrating our hardworking IHCC staff, both past and present by presenting them with citations.

We look forward to continuing our fight against HIV/AIDS as we have already embarked on the last mile to Epidemic control and Ending AIDS by 2030.

Thank you for your continuous support!

PROACTIVE GHANA DONATES WHEELCHAIR TO IHCC



The executive director of Proactive Ghana; a non-Governmental Organization that works to empower women, children, and youth together with his team donated a wheelchair to the International Health Care Centre to support the movement of clients who may not be able to move around on their own throughout the facility to access health services.

This wheelchair is an addition to the one the facility already has and go a long way to help aged clients as well as clients with disability in a movement when they visit the facility to be able to conveniently move around.

The IHCC team once again says a big thank you to Proactive Ghana and looks forward to a mutually beneficial working relationship in the future.

Thank you.

KEY EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS, OUTREACHES & DONATIONS IN 2021

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 trainers' workshop on Stigma and Discrimination.

At the end of the training, 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.



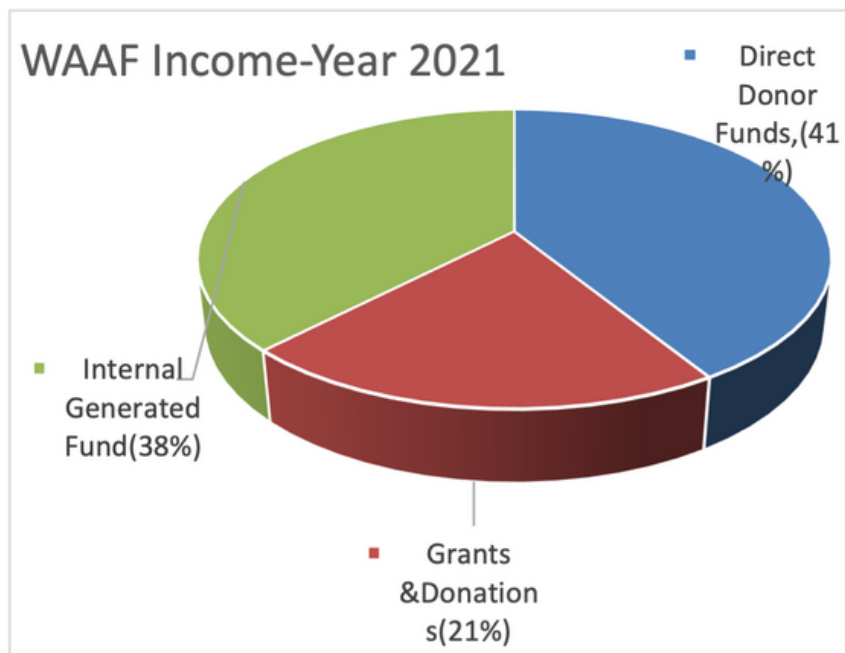
CORPORATE SCREENING AT H&M



The International Health Care Center (IHCC), a frontline health service provider with a focus on preventative healthcare, organized a two day Basic First Aid Training for factory workers and administrative staff of H&M Manufacturing Limited, Ghana on 21st September and 1st October 2021 respectively as part of the company's initiative to improve the general well-being and working conditions of its workers and staff.

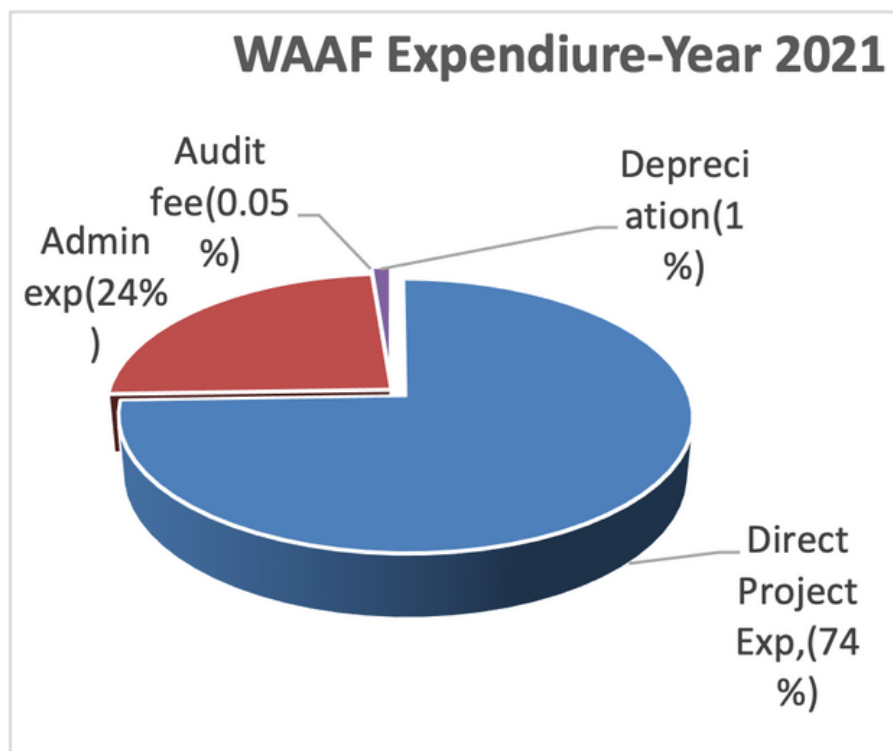
At the end of the intensive training, hard copy certificates were awarded to all the participants. IHCC had 3 objectives for the training: to ensure workers are aware of the basic injuries related to their work and what first aid treatments they can apply, to stress the importance of wearing Personal Protective Equipment [PPE], and to increase administrative staff knowledge on basic First Aid. The training included a combination of physical and video demonstrations, a PowerPoint Presentation, and a questions and answers session. Key topics covered include an overview of First Aid, CPR, electric shock, burns, bleeding injuries, eye injuries, fractures, facial/jaw injuries, spinal injuries, and PPE. A major finding of the training was that factory workers had not realized the importance of PPE and that the PPE being provided to them was in very large sizes, thus not fitting properly and making it dangerous to work in. It is recommended that training of this nature be organized annually for the factory workers to stay updated on the dangers of their work and prevention measures. Overall, the training was deemed successful based on follow-up questions asked and the participant's response of willingness to increase their existing knowledge on First Aid.

TOTAL INCOME FOR 2021

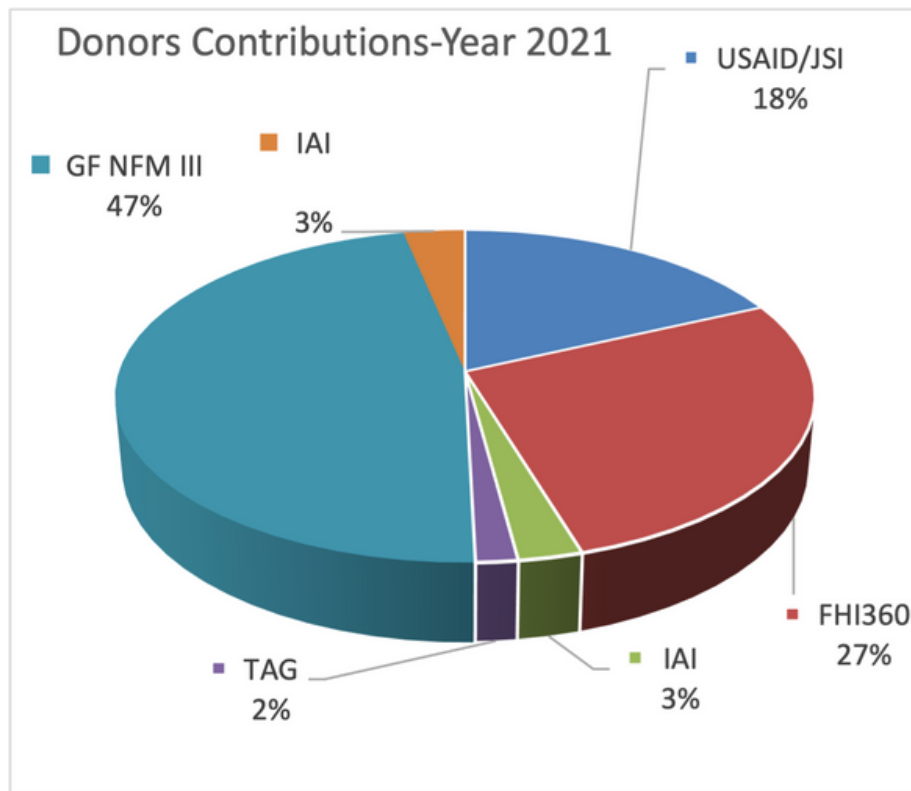


For the year 2021, WAAF and its internal income raising subsidiary, IHCC, realized a total income of GHS8.1 million. This comprised of 38% internal generating funds, 41% direct project funding from Donors, 21% arising from grants and donations for direct ground vulnerable beneficiaries. This is depicted in the pie chart above.

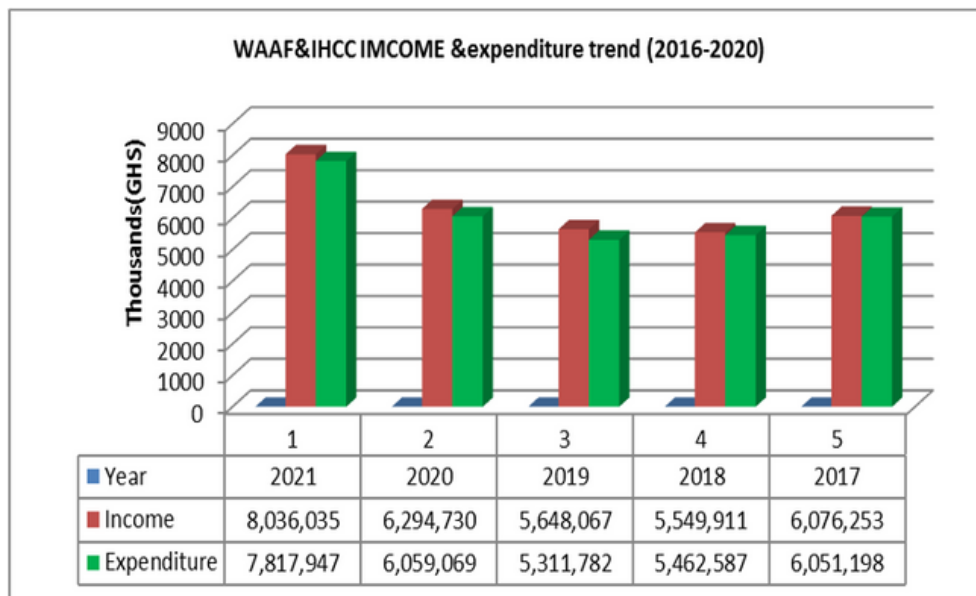
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2021



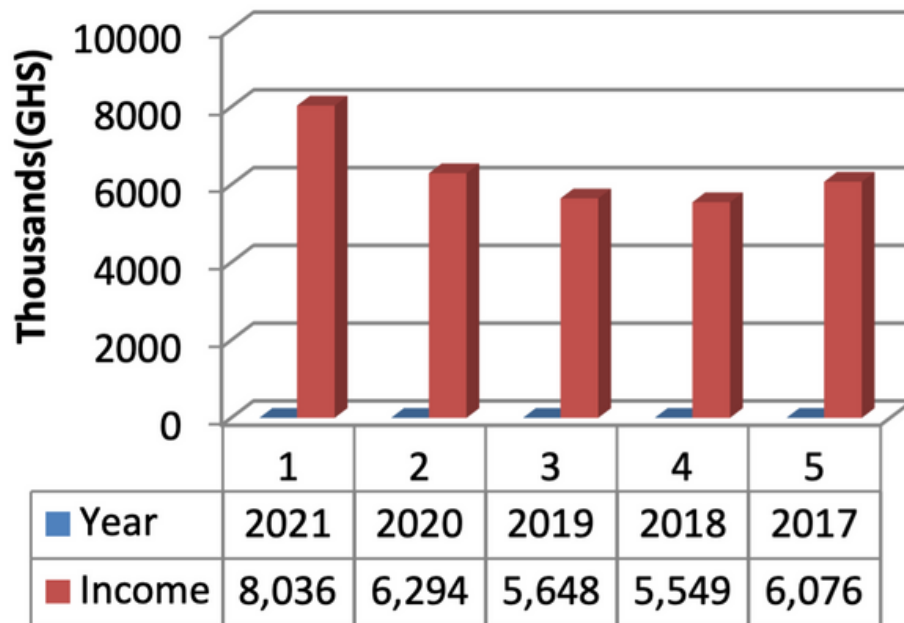
As depicted on the pie chart above, the Total expenditure for WAAF was GHS7.8 million. Out of this 74% as expended on direct field and vulnerable beneficiaries, 24% was spent on operational and administrative support to the field activities, 0.05% for auditing of programs and accounts and 1% to cater for depreciation of assets.



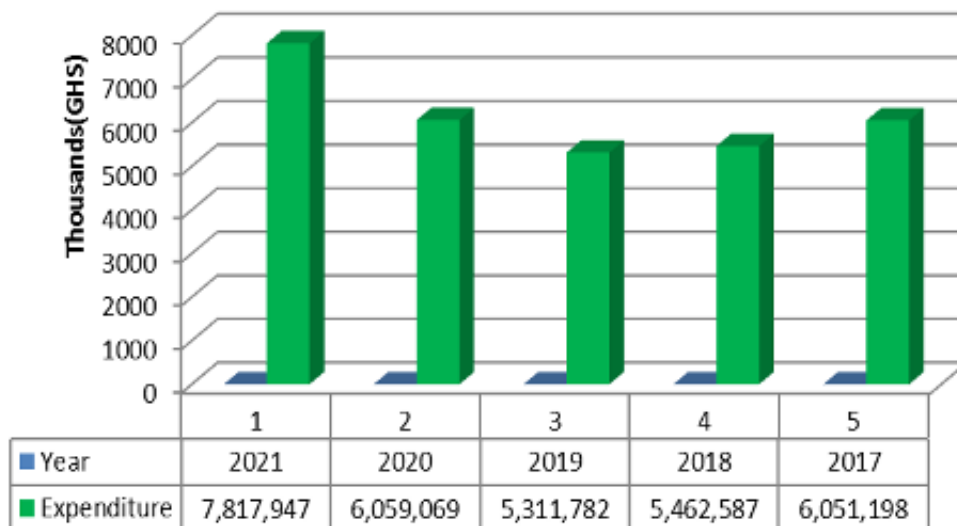
In the year 2021, WAAF was effective in mobilizing GHS3.3 million from Donors for direct and specific project activities. Out of this amount, WAPCAS Global Fund (GF) NFM III contributed 47%, USAID Care Continuum supported with 18%, EpiC project under FHI360 granted 27%. Other Grantors contributed the remaining 8%. This is depicted on the pie chart above.



WAAF&IHCC Income trend(2017-2021)



WAAF&IHCC expenditure trend(2016-2020)



In the HR corner, here are some updates:

Updates from the HR Department.

In the year under review, 6 new staff joined the team at WAAF & IHCC while 3 staff resigned from their positions for personal reasons.

We also had 4 National Service personnel to work with us three interns from the University of Ghana School of social work and one from California State University International Programs.

WHAT OUR INTERNS, VOLUNTEERS AND NATIONAL SERVICE PERSONNEL SAY ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH WAAF-IHCC



Hello,

I am happy to introduce myself as a former WAAF intern in the projects department who spent about three months with WAAF between October and December 2021. I was a journalism and international business exchange student in the California, USA program at the University of Ghana. My goal was to gain public health experience working with clients at WAAF. I achieved this goal doing peer counseling myself for key population groups, while also gaining greater knowledge of WAAF's operations and purpose in the health landscape of Ghana.

I had worked at a Men's Health Center back home and HIV clinic in India prior to my time at WAAF. Despite my lack of educational STEM background, I was welcomed into the work environment at WAAF. At first, I began shadowing client check-ins with P.A. Esinam and then counselor sessions with Ms. Alice and Mr. Johnson. These were very personal experiences with clients that I was happy to be part of. And I was very thankful to the staff for answering my many questions!

I came to assist the PrEP project coordinator and support the facilitators of the PrEP training, which involved getting to know the other Peer Educators, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officers, and Lay Counselors from sister organizations. In addition, I learned, and discussed with staff, the benefits, and drawbacks of the funding structure from international organizations, specifically USAID and FHI360.

My time at WAAF really confirmed my aspiration to work in the clinical field of global health. I pray for greater health care access for Ghana's people, especially for those who identify within the key populations groups and with whom I had the pleasure of connecting with.

I am so grateful for the hospitable environment for the chance to be immersed in the daily operations/projects at WAAF and for the chance to work cross-culturally on addressing HIV prevention. The work that WAAF staff does is not easy, and the staff works with care and honesty.

Lucky Whitburn-Thomas

NATIONAL SERVICE EXPERIENCE WITH WAAF



My experience at WAAF was an interesting one. As a graduate of social work with an experience in NGO administration and field activities, understanding the structure of WAAF was easier. With my experience in the mental health sector, getting trained in the HIV/AIDs-related sector served as a plus. Assisting in the M&E department, and other project activities have been beneficial. I am now a volunteer in one of the NGOs in Ghana. I would like to work with WAAF someday.

-Carol



My experience with WAAF I will say was the best so far in my career. WAAF gave me real practical experience with my theoretical knowledge. Since I was prepared to work with a non-profit organization, I had a fair idea about how NGOs work until I joined WAAF. My field experiences were one of the best since I can engage with people face to face and deliver or perform my task with them. Not only did I love that aspect, however, even at the office level I was able to move from one office to another whilst I perform different tasks. One other thing I love about WAAF is that they believe in working with small but quality staff members where the staff can perform each other's roles well. They have a friendly environment with dedicated people.

-Cephass

2021 National Service Personnel

1. Carol Ewraabena Mensah
2. Francisca Kakra Otchie Nyarko
3. Prince Afreh
4. Cephass Mensah

SUCCESS STORY

NZEMA EAST MUNICIPAL

Case management has played a crucial role in the quest of providing quality HIV testing and counseling services to the key populations in Ghana.

Arnold Kalankatine Bekoe Boateng was a peer educator for MSM on the FY21 project. As a result of his hard work, and excellent performance, he has been promoted to the position of a case manager for MSM on the FY22 project.

His brilliant performance and efforts are contributing to the success story of Nzema East Municipal. Although he is new at the Municipal, he always pushes to get to hard-to-reach communities to reach out to peers to render HIV testing services to them. He has also established a support group for some peers in the Axim community to help deal with GBV and IPV issues. He is a very hardworking and selfless volunteer.



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 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

WAAF, Western Region Office

WAAF Takoradi Office
G118, Adjoa Gharthey Street
Near Mexico Hotel
GPS Address: WS-201-7442
Contact number: 0249354576/ 0245021821/ 0243362447
Email: 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

WAAF, Northern Region Office

Address: Savelugu Municipal Health Assembly
Contact Number: 0243675303/ 0243362447
Email: 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

Follow us on social media!



@WAAFGhana



@WAAFIHCC



@WestAfricanAIDS1



West African
AIDS Foundation
(WAAF)



WAAF IHCC