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Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control- EpiC Project



Funded by USAID and managed by FHI360, this project is designed to break through remaining persistent barriers to achieving the 95-95-95 goals among key and priority populations and promote self-reliant management of national HIV programs. WAAF and IHCC are amongst the first NGOs and health facilities to be selected to start initial

implementation of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) among key populations: men who have sex with men (MSM), female sex workers (FSW), and transgender people (TG). PrEP is a different intervention meant to reduce HIV infection amongst the target population in Ghana. In collaboration with community-based Key Population (KP) led organizations, WAAF is creating demand for PrEP and HIV self-testing (HIVST) within the Greater Accra Region using social media networks as key strategies. WAAF's onsite clinic, IHCC, is providing PrEP services in the form of counseling of clients, administering of the medications, and following up to ensure desired outcomes are achieved. These efforts have, so far, led to 250 MSM, FSW, and TG people initiated on PrEP and 109 persons testing for HIV with the HIVST test kit.

IMPACT4TPT: Tuberculosis Preventive Therapy Project



As TB care is fully integrated in the services of WAAF/IHCC, we go the extra mile to ensure not only efforts related to direct service delivery are addressed but to also advocate for change at the policy level for enhanced TB care. With support from the Treatment Action Group (TAG), WAAF is implementing a project aimed at advocating for availability and increased use of Tuberculosis Preventive Therapy

(TPT). The goal of the project is to increase the uptake of TPT among Persons

Scaling up quality HIV care Cascade through Community engagement and Addressing Human Right Barriers.

living with HIV in the Greater Accra region. The project works with six (6) ART facilities in Accra.

WAAF has, so far, held a stakeholders' discussion with the National Tuberculosis Control Program, Aurum Institute, Municipal and District health directors as well as regional and district HIV Coordinators. Also, 36 health care workers and models of hope have been oriented to share information on TPT to PLHIV in their facilities.

WAAF Expands Its Work to The Central Region of Ghana



After years of HIV and TB work tailored towards diverse group of people in Ghana, WAAF is excited its efforts in the fight against HIV has extended to another region of Ghana. With financial support from the Global Fund, the West Africa Project to Combat AIDS and STI is expanding its HIV project to the central region of Ghana and

has selected WAAF as a sub-recipient of this project.

The project focuses on providing HIV and human right interventions to members of the key population to address the higher rates of HIV infection amongst them compared to members of the general population. WAAF's geographical scope of work expands to eight districts in the region: Cape Coast metropolitan, Komenda Edina Eguafo Abirem Municipality, Assin Fosu Municipality, Upper Denkyira East Municipality, Efutu Municipality, Agona West Municipality, Awutu Senya East Municipality, and Awutu Senya District. The overall goal of the project is to achieve epidemic control and fast track targets of the 95-95-95 goals.

Since the inception of this project, five field officers and 12 case managers have been trained. The project has reached 820 MSM with 737 of them testing for HIV. Of those tested, 51 were found to be HIV+ and 38 have been initiated on ARVs.

❖ WAAF Registers a Branch in Nigeria

WAAF registers a branch in Nigeria as part of its plans to expand into the West Africa sub region.



With over 20 years of experience in the areas of HIV and TB in Ghana, WAAF feels it is time to have presence in selected West African countries to enable it to share lessons learnt over the years, learn from West African countries about their successes, scale up interventions that have worked thereby contributing more effectively to reaching HIV and TB epidemic

control in the sub region.

Nigeria and Mali have been selected to be the first countries for WAAF to have presence. Nigeria because of the similarities in HIV parameters such as a low prevalence of 1.4% amongst adults ages 15 – 49 years necessitating innovative strategies within the last mile towards epidemic control. Complementing efforts in Nigeria and vice versa will be beneficial to both countries, hence, WAAF's registration in Nigeria which was finalized in February of 2021. WAAF Nigeria will be known as West Africa Health Foundation (WAHF) to provide more room for integration of HIV related services into other equally important health areas, which fit in more with efforts toward Universal Health Coverage, another important goal for West Africa. WAAF-Ghana is extremely excited about this achievement of registering in Nigeria and looks forward to working with stakeholders in Nigeria to reach both HIV/TB epidemic controls and Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

IHCC'S EFFORTS IN HIV & TB CLINICAL CARE



With the COVID19 pandemic still going on, WAAF and IHCC are determined to sail through the tide to ensure care is given to its cohort of clients. Both institutions have continued to carefully follow the protocols to control the pandemic and will continue to do so as long as it is necessary. Our patients have remained our focus in these times to ensure treatment is accessible by all. During 2021 quarter 1, IHCC's results in terms of clinical care for PLHIV and TB clients have been as follows: 181 people received HIV testing at the facility, 49 people have been enrolled on Anti-Retroviral treatment, 1,371 PLHIV have been screened for TB, 47 PLHIV have attained viral load suppression, nine women have undergone PMTCT, 15 infants have undergone PCR EID test, 79 persons have been screened for PrEP, and 73 persons have successfully been enrolled on PrEP.

Internship & Volunteering Opportunities

We, at WAAF and IHCC, believe in sharing, learning, and using our experiences to shape younger minds who have the passion to make a difference in the world. Therefore, our doors remain open to students from various backgrounds to volunteer and intern with us. The contribution of interns and volunteers are very valuable to our work, and their contribution results in the enhancement of our efforts towards our mission. Their work is tailored to their needs as well as aligned to our organization's needs resulting in a mutually beneficial relationship. Due to the emergence of COVID19, we, unfortunately, saw a decline in the number of interns and volunteers who came through to us in 2020. WAAF/IHCC, therefore, created the avenue for prospective interns and volunteers to work with us virtually. This enabled 4 students to still be able to work with WAAF and IHCC during the pandemic.

Let's read about the WAAF & IHCC Intern experience from **Danielle Bauman, a recent past virtual intern from the University of Wilmington, North Carolina – USA**

“... from my experience interning at WAAF, if a cause is worth fighting for, you do it tooth and nail but always maintain a sense of humor about life. I watched Dr. Naa, my supervisor, live on just a few hours of sleep at night so she could edit proposals after the kids were in bed, and then wake up early to attend online meetings at 5 am her time. I know she was tired and, at times, frustrated. Regardless, she always could laugh about the situation. It wasn't uncommon during our online meetings for the internet to crash on the Ghana side and the team would disappear for a few minutes. When they were back up and running, Paul, the acting CEO, would laugh deeply and heartily about it because what other choice is there? Learning to not take hurdles too seriously what life will throw at you is one of the best lessons I learned as I move forward with my career. I know I'll experience frustration and anger at times as I enter the public health world since there will always be bureaucracy and red tape. The WAAF/IHCC team approached this with both grit and grace. I will hold that lesson close to my heart as well as my entire internship experience with the West Africa AIDS Foundation.”

Visit our website, www.waafweb.org, to apply for a virtual internship or volunteering with us.



GET TESTED to KNOW YOUR HIV STATUS!

At WAAF / IHCC, our goal is to reach HIV epidemic control, and we can only do this if we all know our HIV status.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR HIV STATUS?

If you do not, now is the time to go for an HIV test, and there are various ways to have one done.

- 1. Call or walk into our facility**
- 2. Call to request for an HIVST kit which offers you the opportunity to conduct the test yourself in the comfort of your home.**

Also, once you know your HIV status, if it is negative, there are ways to protect you from ever getting the virus. If you want to know more about Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP, call or visit our facility.

Also, for anyone who tests positive, we will ensure you are enrolled into care to keep you healthy so your viral load becomes undetectable leading to a healthier you and preventing you from infecting others.

Contact us for more details

Some Upcoming Health Awareness Days you should know about:

- June 5 World Environment Day.**
- June 14 World Blood Donor Day**
- July 28 World hepatitis day**
- August 1 – 7 World Breastfeeding Week**
- December 1st - World AIDS Day**

Want to learn more about us or ask us confidential questions, locate us at any of the following offices:

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

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

WAAF, Bono Region Office

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

Contact Numbers: +233 (0) 241169696 | (0) 20219179

Please direct general inquiries to: edward_ayabilah@waafweb.org

WAAF Central Regional District Offices

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