



GHANA HIV AND AIDS NETWORK (GHANET)

Annual

REPORT

2025



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1. Luo et al. Comparison of HIV oral fluid and plasma antibody results during early infection in a longitudinal Nigerian cohort. *Journal of Clinical Virology*. December 2013;58(Suppl 1):A113-8.

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2025: Echoes of Disruptions and Resilience

The year 2025 started on a rather disruptive note when, on 20th January, President Donald Trump of the United States, upon his swearing in, announced that he was going to take another look at the general architecture of his country's support for the rest of the world.

The announcement, without any exaggeration, sent chilling shivers down the spine of countries and agencies that receive support from the US government. What shocked the world most was the suspension of activities of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the declaration that the US was going to pull out of the World Health Organization (WHO).

For a lot of countries in Africa, especially in the Eastern and Southern regions, and the rest of the developing world, that depend heavily on US donor support, the suspension of USAID created a huge disruption in HIV services. The most affected were persons living with HIV (PLHIV) whose treatments schedules were adversely impacted.

For us in Ghana, the exit of USAID meant that our HIV and AIDS intervention in the Western, Western North, and Ahafo regions were going to be disrupted. And while we were counting our losses, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFTAM), which contributes the largest investments in the national AIDS response, issued a 'slowdown letter' to Ghana, essentially informing us about the need for some reprioritization of funds to align with anticipated cuts in funding from the US and,

potentially, other donor partners.

Eventually, the Ghana Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) provided oversight for the reprioritization exercise where Ghana's portfolio of US 248 million dollars was reduced to US 229 million dollars. The Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET), as a beneficiary implementer of Global Fund Grant Cycle Seven (GC7), was affected by the cuts that followed the reprioritization.

The cuts, sadly, translated into a reduction in funds for our member non-governmental organizations (NGOs) implementing the HIV Self-Testing (HIVST) and Other Vulnerable Populations (OVP) projects in 75 districts across 13 regions in the country. Nevertheless, the NGOs continued the distribution of HIVST kits and HIV and AIDS education in local communities in the implementing districts.

The GHANET National Secretariat also undertook HIVST campaigns at almost all the major festivals in the southern part of the country with high burdens of HIV and AIDS. These festivals included Aboakyer, Asafotufiami, Bakatue, Fetu Afahye, Hogbetsotso, Homowo and others. This report captures beautiful scenes from the festivals vis-à-vis the HIV screenings by our staff and volunteers.

In November, GHANET organized its exciting and unmissable Annual World AIDS Day (WAD) Health Walk which brought together all the major stakeholders in the national HIV response. These included institutional heads and staff from Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC), National AIDS/STI Control Programme (NACP), Joint United Nations (UNAIDS), World Health Organization (WHO) and representation from Ministry of Health (MoH), and Ghana Health Service (GHS). Others included Civil Society Organizations (CSO) representatives and healthcare workers. As usual, we bring you breathtaking pictures from the scenes of the walk in the picturesque Aburi mountains.

Ghana hosted ICASA 2025 in December and GHANET actively participated in the events at the Accra International Conference Centre (AICC). Also, in December GHANET organized its Annual General Meeting (AGM) where the Network's Constitution was reviewed and approved.

All in all, GHANET fared fairly well in 2025 except that, earlier in March, the Network, unexpectedly, lost its National Treasurer, Mr. Louis Acheampong, after a short illness. His death indeed came as a shocker given how active he was! Our prayers are still with him, his bereaved wife and children. We wish him a peaceful rest.

As we welcome 2026, we pray that the resilience of the HIV community, against the disruptions in the global health financing space, will remain stronger!

Please enjoy reading our report.

We thank you.

Ernest Amoabeng Ortsin
President

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Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET) is the leading Civil Society Organization (CSO) in the fight against HIV and AIDS in Ghana. With a membership of over 300 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), GHANET has presence in every nook and cranny across the 16 regions of Ghana.

The President of GHANET serves on the Governing Board of the Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC) which is under the Office of the President of the Republic of Ghana. GHANET is also represented at the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM).

At the national level GHANET leads in advocacy campaigns and analysis of public policies on HIV and AIDS. Through its collaboration with GAC, the Network has contributed towards the preparation of National Strategic Plans (NSPs) on HIV and AIDS and other policy documents.

By way of implementation strategy, projects are carried out by constituent member organizations (at the community level).

This way, the Network is able to rapidly deploy its members to implement projects timeously and efficiently.

The Network traces its beginnings to May 1996 when it was established to rally together NGOs and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) that had started



public campaigns on HIV and AIDS, as part of the national response.

GHANET is duly registered under the Companies Code, 1963 (Act 179) and also with other relevant state regulatory agencies.

Transparency and accountability are core values of the Network.

GHANET is highly committed to working in partnership with other CSO networks and development partners.

Community Mobilization

We are a grassroots organization and we have a specialty in mobilizing local communities for concerted action. We work hand-in-hand with chiefs, queen mothers, opinion leaders, religious leaders, assembly members, women groups, youth groups etc.



Research

Our members are always collecting data on the field through implementation of their various projects and we collaborate with research institutions and professionals to analyze and publish the findings.



Advocacy

We are always at the forefront on advocacy issues relating to HIV and AIDS policy, funding, prevention, treatment, care and support, stigma and discrimination and human rights.



Resource Mobilization

We are constantly engaging donors, development partners and government to mobilize funds for HIV and AIDS interventions across the country.



Capacity Building

On regular basis we organize capacity building workshops for our member NGOs especially in the areas of evidence-based technical and financial reporting as well as effective communication and fundraising.



Monitoring and Evaluation

Through a knowledge management information system, we monitor and evaluate the work of our Member NGOs to document best practices, success stories, and lessons learnt.



Networking

We work closely with fellow CSO Networks represented at the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) of the Global Fund, particularly Network of Persons Living with HIV (NAP+), Stop TB Partnership Ghana (STBPG), Ghana TB Voice Network (GTBVN) and Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health (GCNH). We also maintain healthy working relationships with other CSOs with whom we share common goals and aspirations.



Our Vision

Working towards an HIV and AIDS-Free Society.



Our Mission

To be the lead CSO working in partnership with international and local collaborators to end HIV and AIDS and other emerging viral pandemics in Ghana.



Our Objectives

- To provide the platform for the rapid deployment of HIV and AIDS services at the community level by involving all stakeholders at the community level in support of the national HIV and AIDS response.
- Monitoring and evaluating activities of CSOs at the community level to ensure effective implementation of the national HIV and AIDS response.
- To build the capacity of member and non-member NGOs, CBOs, and stakeholders to increase their competence in the implementation of the National HIV and AIDS Response.
- To engage donors, government, and stakeholders in the mobilization of resources toward the national response.
- To create and maintain linkages and partnerships with National, Regional and International Networks in support of the national response.

Quick Stats

29+

Years of Operation

GHANET was established in 1996 and we have actively supported the National HIV and AIDS Response for more than 29 years.

300+

Membership

We have more than 300+ members across Ghana in every metropolis, municipality, and district.

16

Regional Presence

We have presence in all 16 regions across Ghana.

25+

Projects Executed

We have successfully executed more than 25 national projects in the last 28 years.



Mr. Ernest Amoabeng Ortsin
(President)



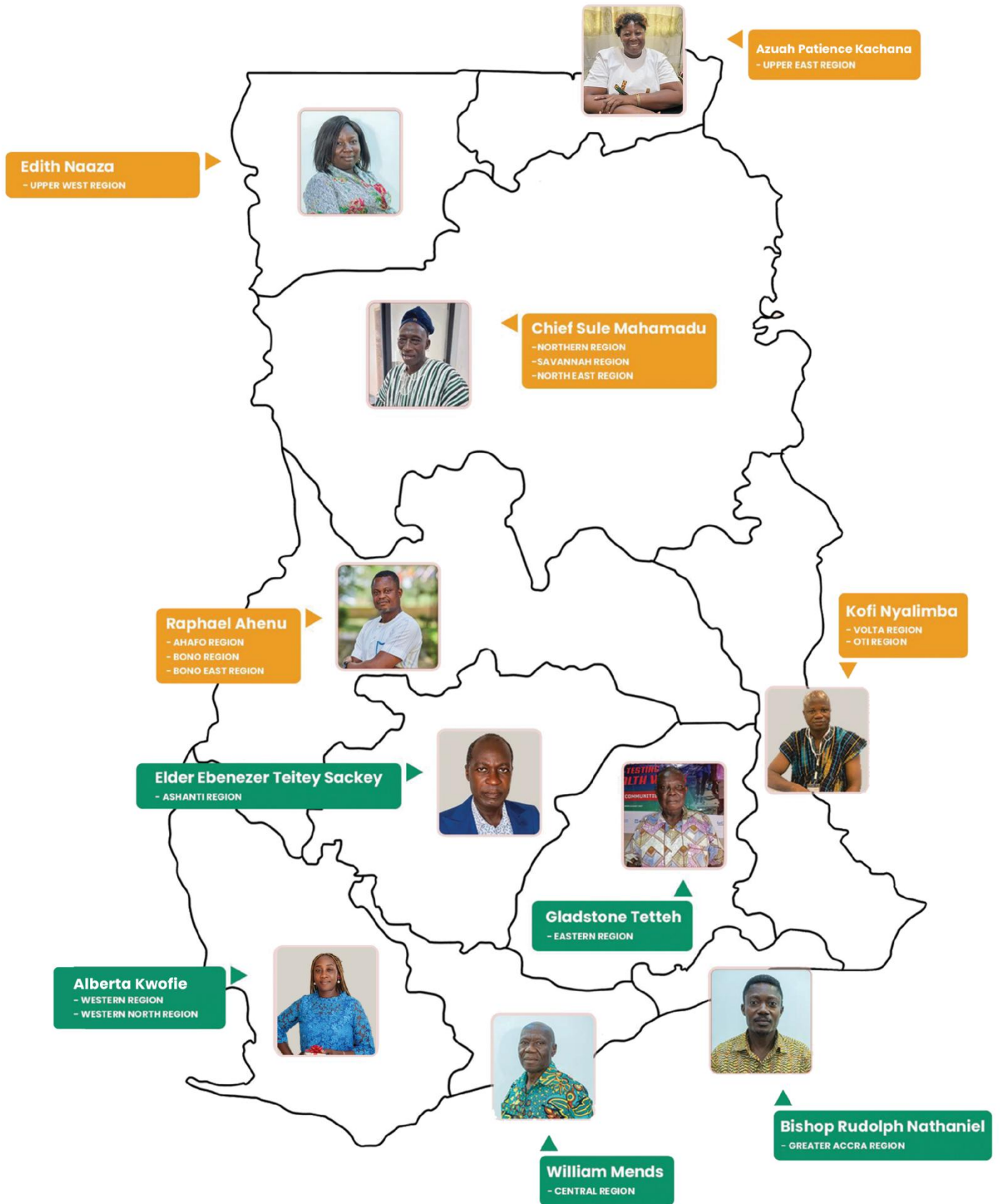
Mrs. Victoria Araba Dadzie-Dennis
(Vice President)



Mr. Andrew Yilob Embireh
(Secretary)



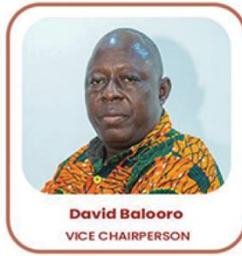
Mr. Patrick Anamoo
(Public Relations Officer)



UPPER WEST



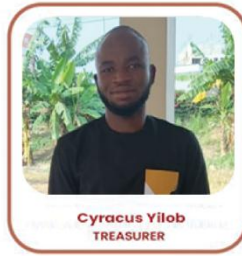
Edith Naaza
CHAIRPERSON



David Balooro
VICE CHAIRPERSON



David Gaanye
SECRETARY



Cyracus Yilob
TREASURER



Matthew Vaari
PRO

UPPER EAST



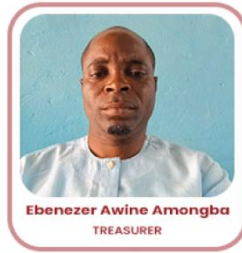
Azuah Patience Kachana
CHAIRPERSON



Adua Donatus Awine
VICE CHAIRPERSON



Liberty Wemusono Aluah
SECRETARY



Ebenezer Awine Amongba
TREASURER

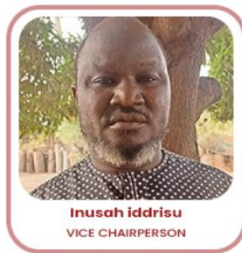


Braimah Sanjage
PRO

NORTHERN, SAVANNAH & NORTH EAST



Chief Sulley Mahamadu
CHAIRPERSON



Inusah iddrisu
VICE CHAIRPERSON



Sa-ad Ali
SECRETARY



Fuseini Shayawu
TREASURER



Ibrahim Abdallah
PRO

AHAFO, BONO & BONO EAST



Raphael Ahenu
CHAIRPERSON



Mustapha Yeboah
VICE CHAIRPERSON



Simon Azumah Asore
SECRETARY

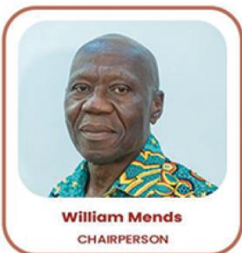


Angela Essel
TREASURER



Baffour Mensah Amos
PRO

CENTRAL



William Mends
CHAIRPERSON



Martha Jonah
VICE CHAIRPERSON



Selina Ekuban
SECRETARY

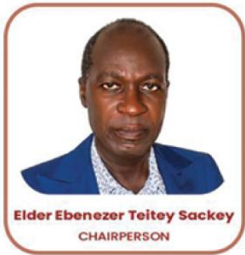


Rev Samuel Ekow Panford
TREASURER

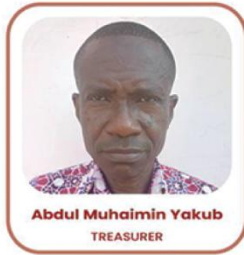


Robert Cobbina Jonah
PRO

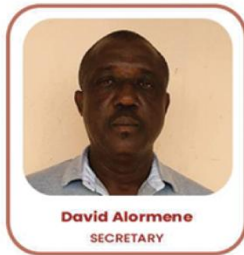
ASHANTI



EASTERN



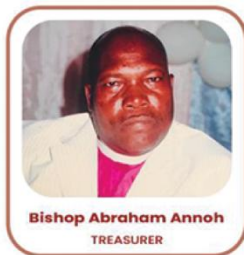
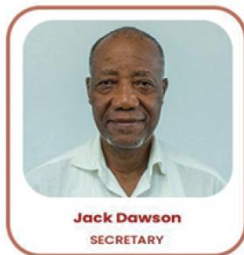
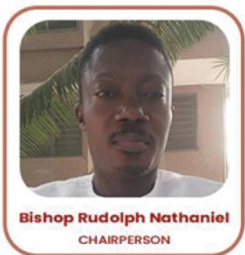
VOLTA & OTI



WESTERN & WESTERN NORTH



GREATER ACCRA





Bernice Ababio
(Administrative Manager)



Vanessa Yehoda Mensah
(Project Accountant)



Gladys Akwete
(Programmes Coordinator)



Emmanuel Yaw Osei
(Monitoring and Evaluation Officer)



Kwamina M. Dawson Amoah
(Multimedia Specialist)



Edmund Mensah
(Data Officer)



Joana Armoo Polley
(Counsellor)



Agnes Quaye
(Field Officer)



Cynthia Adolowine
(Office Assistant)



Richard Ampah
(Driver)



King Gideon Ofori
(Security Officer)



Nii Otu Amponsah
(Security Officer)



WORLD AIDS DAY 2025
HEALTH WALK

THEME: AFRICA UNITES AGAINST AIDS



DATE

NOVEMBER 29, 2025



ARRIVAL TIME

6AM



STARTING POINT

AYI MENSA
(TOLL BOOTH)



ENDING POINT

PEDUASE (OPPOSITE THE
PRESIDENTIAL LODGE)

SIDE ATTRACTIONS

- Kenkey Party
- Fresh Juice Refreshments
- Free T-shirts
- Aerobics
- Free HIV Self-Testing Kits
- Free Condoms
- Face and Body Painting
- Colour Splashing
- Brass Band, Kolomashie and "Gyama" Music



Introduction

In commemoration of World AIDS Day 2025, the Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET), in collaboration with the Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC), organised a Health Walk under the theme **“Africa Unites Against AIDS.”**

The event formed part of Ghana’s national efforts to raise awareness of HIV prevention, promote HIV testing and treatment, reduce stigma and discrimination, and reaffirm the country’s commitment to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

The Health Walk served as a symbolic demonstration of unity, resilience, and shared responsibility, bringing together government institutions, development partners, civil society organisations, health professionals, community groups, and members of the general public to advocate collectively for a strengthened HIV response.

Objectives of the Health Walk

The World AIDS Day Health Walk aimed to:

Contribute to Ghana’s preparations towards hosting ICASA 2025.

Demonstrate Ghana’s commitment to the global HIV response and alignment with the UNAIDS 2030 agenda.

Promote voluntary HIV testing, linkage to care, and treatment to support the achievement of the UNAIDS 95–95–95 targets.

Advocate for increased domestic financing for HIV and AIDS, particularly the operationalisation of the National HIV and AIDS Fund.

Enhance community-level knowledge on HIV prevention, treatment, and stigma reduction.

Participation and Route

The Health Walk recorded broad and diverse participation, including representatives from:

- Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC)
- Ministry of Health (MoH)
- Ghana Health Service (GHS)
- National AIDS/STI Control Programme (NACP)
- UNAIDS
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Country Coordinating Mechanism of the Global Fund (CCM)
- World Vision
- Abbott Diagnostics
- DKT International
- Civil Society Organisations and Community-Based Organizations
- Youth groups and members of the general public, including residents of the Danfa Community



Participants began the walk at Ayi Mensa and ended at Peduase, carrying banners and placards bearing key advocacy messages such as **“Know Your Status,” “End Stigma and Discrimination,”** and **“Africa Unites Against AIDS.”**

The procession drew significant public attention and amplified HIV awareness messages along the route.



Complementary wellness and engagement activities were organised to enhance participation and visibility. These included an aerobics session to promote physical fitness, a colourful splash activity to add vibrancy to the event, the provision of fresh fruit juices to encourage healthy living, and a kenkey party to foster social interaction and cultural appreciation.



Address by Dignitaries

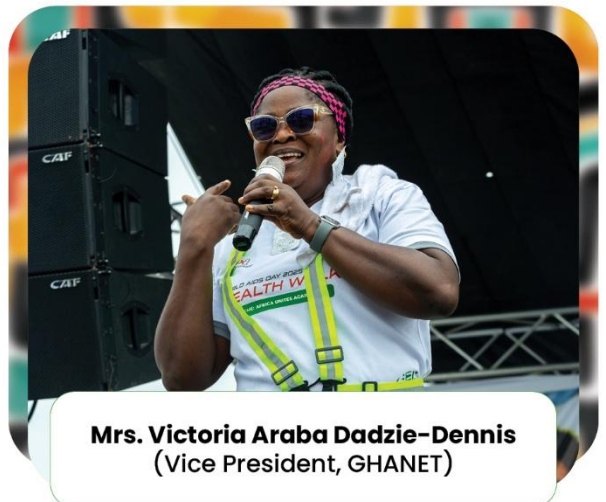
Mrs. Victoria Araba Dadzie-Dennis, Vice President, GHANET, delivered the welcome address, expressing appreciation to partners and participants for their support.

She underscored the importance of unity and multi-sectoral collaboration in the HIV response, noting that the theme **“Africa Unites Against AIDS”** highlights the need for collective action across borders, institutions, and communities.

She reaffirmed GHANET’s commitment to advocacy, community engagement, and accountability in Ghana’s HIV response.

Dr. Fiona Braka, WHO Country Representative, highlighted the continued public health significance of HIV and commended Ghana’s progress in expanding access to HIV prevention and treatment services.

She reasserted the importance of evidence-based interventions, strong health systems, and the integration of HIV services into primary health care, while calling for sustained investment in prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment, particularly among vulnerable and key populations.



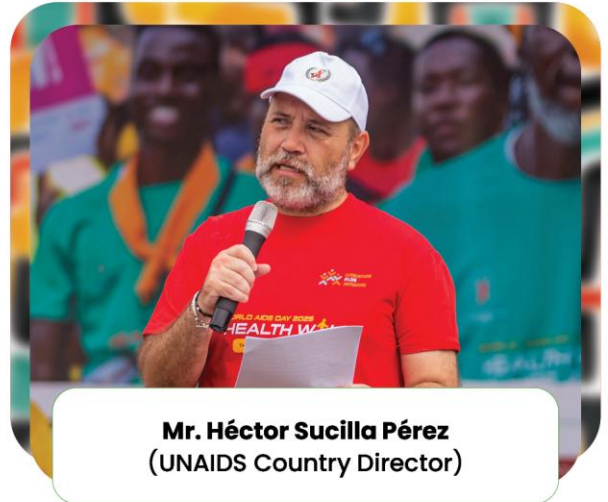
Mrs. Victoria Araba Dadzie-Dennis
(Vice President, GHANET)



Dr. Fiona Braka
(WHO Country Representative)

Mr. Héctor Sucilla Pérez, UNAIDS Country Director, reaffirmed UNAIDS' commitment to supporting Ghana's national HIV response. He stressed the urgency of accelerating progress towards the 95–95–95 targets and addressing emerging challenges, including new HIV infections among young people.

He further emphasized the need to tackle stigma, inequality, and social barriers, while placing communities and people living with HIV at the centre of the response.



Mr. Héctor Sucilla Pérez
(UNAIDS Country Director)

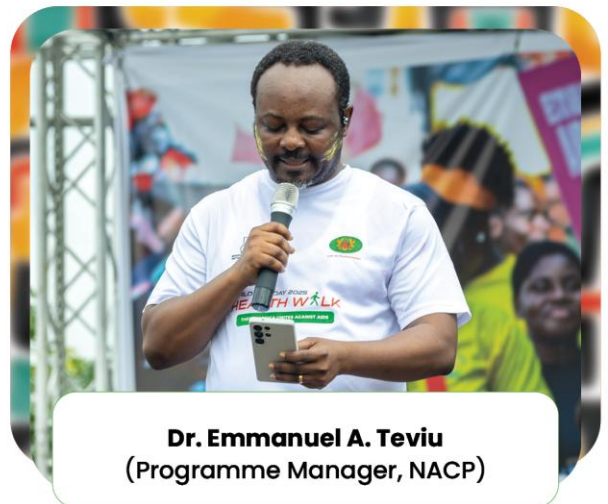
Dr. Kharmacelle Prosper Akanbong, Director-General, GAC, provided an overview of Ghana's HIV situation and outlined ongoing national efforts to strengthen prevention, treatment, and care services.

He reiterated the Government of Ghana's commitment to achieving national and global HIV targets and called for increased domestic financing, strengthened partnerships, and accountability at all levels.

He commended GHANET and its partners for sustained advocacy and community-level engagement.



Dr. Kharmacelle Prosper Akanbong
(Director-General, GAC)



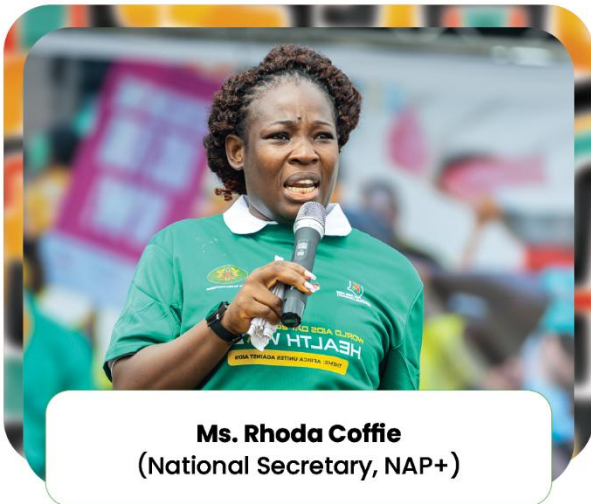
Dr. Emmanuel A. Teviu
(Programme Manager, NACP)

Dr. Emmanuel A. Teviu, Programme Manager, NACP, echoed Ghana's dedication to achieving an AIDS-free generation, calling for stronger collective action, expanded testing and treatment, and intensified efforts to eliminate stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV.

He reminded us to stand together remember those we have lost, celebrate the courage of those living with HIV, and renew our shared commitment to a future where no Ghanaian dies of AIDS or faces discrimination because of HIV.

Mr. Samuel Hackman, Secretary, Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), mentioned that, the national focus is on strengthening the national response to HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, with a strong emphasis on accountability and eliminating stigma. Therefore, fostering collaborative efforts from partners and stakeholders.

Ms. Rhoda Cooffie, National Secretary, Network of Persons Living with HIV (NAP+), highlighted the severe impact of reduced international funding on HIV services in Ghana, emphasizing the need to reclaim leadership through resilience and reform.



Ms. Rhoda Coffie
(National Secretary, NAP+)

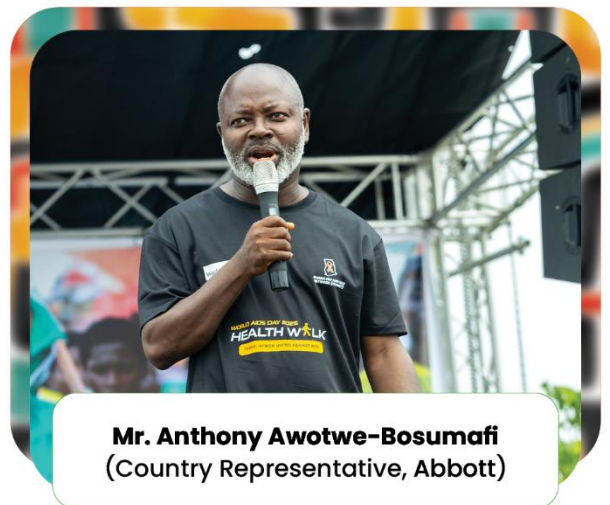


Ms. Ivy Mawusenam Kanda
(Representative, DKT International)

Ms. Ivy Mawusenam Kanda, Representative, DKT International, pointed to the organization's contribution to HIV prevention, particularly through the promotion of condom use and access to reproductive health commodities. She stressed on the importance of private sector and civil society collaboration in advancing HIV prevention efforts and pledged continued support to national initiatives aimed at reducing new HIV infections.



Mr. Samuel Hackman
(Secretary, CCM)



Mr. Anthony Awotwe-Bosumafi
(Country Representative, Abbott)

Mr. Anthony Awotwe-Bosumafi, Representative, Abbott Diagnostics reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to the global HIV response, highlighting the company's role in HIV diagnostics and prevention including a legacy of developing the first FDA-approved HIV blood test and ongoing support for clinical trials and HIV monitoring tools.



Ms. Awurabena Quayeba Dadzie
(Representative, World Vision
Ghana)



Mr. Jacob Acquah Andoh
(PRO, GHS, MC)



Ms. Margaret Yamoah
(Communications
Manager, GAC, Co-MC)

Ms. Awurabena Quayeba Dadzie, Representative, World Vision Ghana, noted that sustained public education, testing, and partnerships among government, civil society organizations, and communities were essential to preventing new HIV infections and supporting Ghana's efforts to end AIDS by 2030.

Key Messages from the Event

The following key messages were consistently reinforced throughout the Health Walk and addressed:

- HIV remains a major public health concern requiring sustained and coordinated action.
- Knowing one's HIV status is critical for prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment.
- Persistent funding gaps pose a threat to the sustainability of the HIV response.
- Stigma and discrimination undermine HIV prevention, treatment, and care efforts and must be eliminated.
- Collective and unified action across Africa is essential to ending AIDS.



Mr. Kakra Essamuah (Esq.)
(Board Chair, GAC)

Media Coverage

The event received strong media coverage, including live reporting and post-event broadcasts, which contributed to wider public awareness and dissemination of key HIV advocacy messages.

Conclusion

The event was moderated by Mr. Jacob Acquah Andoh, Public Relations Officer (PRO), GHS, and Ms. Margaret Yamoah, Communications Manager, GAC. In special attendance was the Board Chair of GAC, Mr. Kakra Essamuah (Esq.). Also in attendance was Ms. Eunice Ampienyiwa Mensah (Esq.), Expert Adviser, UNAIDS and Dr. Senya Kafui, Public Health Specialist, WHO.

The World AIDS Day 2025 Health Walk, organised by GHANET in collaboration with GAC, was successful and demonstrated strong national and international solidarity under the theme **"Africa Unites Against AIDS."**



Ms. Eunice Ampienyiwa Mensah (Esq.)
(Expert Adviser, UNAIDS)



2025 END-OF-YEAR SAFE-SEX CAMPAIGN

#TestYourself #KnowYourStatus #Condomize

Free HIV Self-Test (HIVST) Kits & Condoms

 10AM TO 6PM

 DEC 26, 2025 TO JAN 1, 2026

 LABOMA | WEST HILLS MALL



Introduction

Under the auspices of the National AIDS and STI Control Programme (NACP), Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET) organized a Safe-Sex Campaign at Laboma Beach and West Hills Mall during the Christmas season from December 26, 2025 to January 1, 2026.

Over seven days, the campaign raised public awareness of HIV and AIDS, promoted safer sexual behaviours, and encouraged beachgoers and the wider community to volunteer for HIV testing. The campaign strategically leveraged the high festive turnout to maximize reach and impact.

Key Activities

• Community Sensitisation and Risk-Reduction Education

The outreach team engaged beachgoers through targeted interpersonal communication. They educated the public on HIV prevention strategies, safer sexual practices, and the importance of regular HIV testing, especially during the festive season.

• Distribution of Prevention Commodities

To promote safer sexual behaviour, 57,600 male condoms were distributed to sexually active individuals over the seven-day campaign. Demonstrations on correct and consistent condom use were also provided.

• Provision of HIV Testing Services

Voluntary HIV testing was offered using approved HIV self-testing kits. Approximately 1,000 HIV test kits were distributed. These included OraQuick (oral-based) and CheckNOW (blood-based) kits. Beneficiaries received guidance on correct usage, interpretation of results, and linkage to confirmatory testing where required.

• On-site Counselling

Counsellors provided pre- and post-test counselling to support informed decision-making and address stigma and misconceptions.

Daily Distribution of HIV Self-Test Kits

Date	Total Kits Distributed	Blood-Based	Oral-Fluid
December 27, 2024	175	113	62
December 28, 2024	157	99	58
December 29, 2024	67	49	18
December 30, 2024	94	75	19
December 31, 2025	266	207	59
January 1, 2025	208	149	59
Total	967	692	275

Key Highlights

Speaking at the campaign grounds, the President of the Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET) highlighted the urgent need for behaviour change, widespread testing, and stronger institutional support for HIV prevention. **“This exercise forms part of ongoing efforts to reduce new HIV infections and encourage the public to know their HIV status. It is extremely risky to engage in unprotected sex without knowing a partner’s status.**

One cannot judge HIV status by appearance, physique, or facial looks. We must also acknowledge that the National HIV and AIDS Fund is currently depleted. There is an urgent need for the government to adequately resource the fund to sustain HIV prevention and response efforts.”

Some beneficiaries commended GHANET for rolling out the campaign and urged the public to prioritise HIV testing in order to know their status. One beneficiary emphasised the importance of condom use, stating, **“Condom use is not optional. You may love your partner, but if you do not know their HIV status, you are putting yourself at risk. To protect yourself from HIV, always use a condom. It is as simple as that.”**



Conclusion

The Safe-Sex Campaign at Laboma Beach and West Hills Mall successfully leveraged the festive season to deliver comprehensive HIV prevention and testing services to a high-risk, mobile population.

Through community sensitisation, large-scale condom distribution, voluntary HIV self-testing, and on-site counselling, the campaign strengthened public awareness, promoted safer sexual behaviours, and increased uptake of HIV testing.

The outcomes of the intervention underscore the value of community-based and event-focused approaches in advancing national HIV prevention goals. Sustained investment, strengthened institutional support, and adequate resourcing of the National HIV and AIDS Fund remain critical to scaling up such interventions.

These are also key to maintaining progress toward reducing new HIV infections in Ghana.





THEME

**A SEASON OF LOVE ... SPREAD
LOVE NOT THE VIRUS**



FEBRUARY 14, 2025



6:00AM TO 10:00AM



**DANQUAH CIRCLE, KWAME NKURUMAH
CIRCLE, MALLAM JUNCTION/MCCARTHY
HILL, OKPONGLO JUNCTION, 37
ROUNDBOUT, TUDU/KINBU, AND
ABC JUNCTION**



Introduction

On Friday, February 14, 2025, Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET), in partnership with National AIDS/STI Control Programme (NACP), organized an HIV prevention awareness campaign dubbed “**A Season of Love (Spread Love...Not the Virus)**”.

Strategically leveraging on the Valentine’s day celebration, this initiative was aimed at engaging the public through direct street evangelism, preaching the gospel of HIV prevention and awareness, and promoting safe-sex practices. During this campaign, about 250,000 packaged condoms were distributed alongside some educational materials on the basics, myths and misconceptions about HIV.

The campaign, which was strategically executed at seven high-traffic intersections in Accra, began at 6:00 am and ended at 10:00 am. The selected locations included 37 Roundabout, ABC Junction, Danquah Circle, Mallam Junction/McCarthy Hill, Kwame Nkrumah Circle,

Okponglo Junction, and Tudu/Kinbu. These locations serve as major entry points into the city of Accra, maximizing the outreach and engagement with drivers and pedestrians.

With the support of over a hundred (100) trained volunteers, the staff of GHANET and NACP, and police officers, the campaign was seamlessly coordinated, making it incident-free. The volunteers engaged the public using placards with messages such as “**WRAP IT BEFORE YOU TAP IT**”, “**IF YOU NO WRAP AM YOU GO EXPLAIN TAYA**”, and “**SKIN-TO-SKIN FIT YAWA YOU, DEY GUARD**”.

To further maximize reach and impact of the initiative, GHANET collaborated with 15 major media houses namely: Joy News, GTV, TV3, Metro TV, Kessben TV, ITV, Angel TV, UTV, CHANNEL 24, Onua TV, CTV, Atinka TV, Peace FM, Accra FM, and Rainbow Radio.

Objectives of the Campaign

- 1** **HIV Prevention Awareness**
Educate the public on HIV prevention, safe-sex practices, and risks of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) through direct community engagement.
- 3** **Community Engagement**
Utilize “word-on-the-street” evangelism to spark open conversations about HIV, stigma reduction, and sexual health.
- 5** **Support National HIV Response**
Align with the NACP’s mission to reduce new HIV infections.

- 2** **Condom Distribution**
Provide free condoms to encourage safe-sex practices, especially during the Valentine period.
- 4** **Targeted Outreach**
Reach diverse populations in seven key locations to maximize the accessibility of HIV-prevention materials.

Locations and Activities

The campaign was conducted simultaneously at seven high-traffic intersections, where volunteers actively engaged drivers, passengers, and pedestrians by distributing free condoms and educational flyers.

The condom distribution initiative across Accra was met with overwhelming enthusiasm, with supplies running out quickly at several locations. At Kwame Nkrumah Circle Interchange, teams at Odo Rise, Vodafone Office, and Obra Spot engaged with drivers, traders, and social workers, sparking positive discussions on condom use.

Similarly, at Danquah Circle, the strategic location attracted individuals from Osu, Labadi, Teshie, and Nungua, generating excitement and curiosity. Okponglo Junction saw strong appreciation for the discreet packaging of condoms, with street hawkers showing keen interest. At 37 Roundabout, the distribution was interactive and welcoming, encouraging more people to accept the condoms packaged in customized envelopes.



At Mallam Junction/McCarthy Hill, the demand was so high that people requested for additional supplies, with some traders praising the initiative.

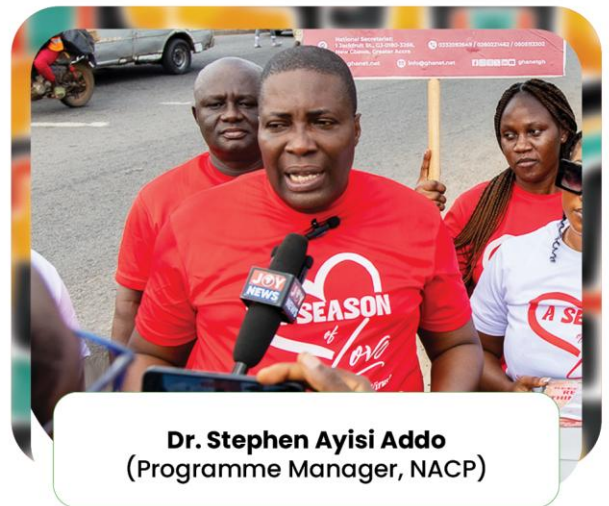


Below is the breakdown of the distribution and the media houses stationed at each location:

Location	Condoms Distributed	Media Houses
37 Roundabout	50,160	TV3, CHANNEL 24
ABC Junction	27,960	UTV, Accra FM, Rainbow Radio
Danquah Circle	21,480	METRO TV, CTV
Kwame Nkrumah Circle	50,160	Kessben TV, GTV, Atinka TV
Mallam Junction/McCarthy Hill	23,236	ITV, Angel TV
Okponglo Junction	23,640	Joy News, Onua TV
Tudu/Kinbu	50,160	PEACE FM
Total	246,796	

Key Messages

Dr. Stephen Ayisi Addo, Programme Manager, NACP, in an interview with TV3 at 37 Roundabout and Okponglo Junction respectively, stated the need for sustainable national HIV response strategies in the face of dwindling resources. He highlighted Ghana’s roadmap for HIV sustainability and ongoing discussions with the new government leadership to secure greater domestic funding. Additionally, he articulated the importance of efficiency, targeted interventions, and innovative approaches to maximize the impact of available resources.



Mr. Ernest Amoabeng Ortsin, President, GHANET, spoke on Metro TV, acknowledging the significance of Valentine’s Day in promoting love while reinforcing the necessity of protection against HIV. He also encouraged individuals to overcome stigma, use condoms, and ensure safe-sex practices. He also noted GHANET’s ongoing initiatives, including HIV self-testing (HIVST) projects in 75 districts nationwide, to promote testing and early detection of HIV.

Speaking to Joy News at Okponglo Junction, Ms. Gladys Akwetey, Programmes Coordinator, GHANET, stressed that the initiative aims to address the rising rate of HIV infection in Ghana. According to reports from NACP, between January and September 2023, about 23,000 newly diagnosed HIV cases were recorded, and for the same period in 2024, about 35,000 new HIV cases were recorded.

She also mentioned the importance of knowing one’s HIV status, as over 100,000 people in Ghana may be living with HIV without being aware. She affirmed GHANET’s strategy to utilize various public events and important occasions to spread awareness about the virus.



Community Response and Participation

The public reception of the campaign was overwhelmingly positive, with excitement and gratitude from some of the individuals who received the condoms. Many individuals shared their feelings about how receiving free condoms in public helped them overcome the discomfort of purchasing them; a significant barrier to safe-sex practices. Speaking with Joy News, some recipients expressed their appreciation with enthusiasm.

One individual remarked, **“This gift will prevent a lot of us from STIs and more.”** Another beamed with excitement, saying, **“I think it’s a very thoughtful idea to give out condoms on Val’s Day. IF IT’S NOT ON, IT’S NOT IN!”**

The slogan quickly caught on, resonating with many as fun; yet a powerful reminder of the need to protect oneself. The campaign did more than distribute condoms; it generated conversations.

Motorists, commuters, and pedestrians actively engaged in discussions, eagerly accepting informational materials and gaining a deeper understanding of HIV prevention. The streets buzzed with curiosity, as people not only took the condoms but also took the message to heart. It was evident that this initiative was not just about free condoms; it was about breaking barriers, fostering openness, and empowering individuals to make informed choices about their health.



Conclusion

The Valentine’s Day Activation Campaign successfully promoted HIV prevention and safe-sex practices across Accra. GHANET effectively distributed condoms and educational materials, engaging motorists, commuters, and pedestrians. Feedback suggested expanding the initiative beyond Valentine’s Day.

A well-planned logistics strategy ensured smooth execution, and media collaborations amplified the campaign’s reach. Moving forward, sustaining and expanding the initiative through partnerships and innovative approaches will be crucial in addressing rising HIV infections in Ghana.





WORKSHOP ON GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN FOR VULNERABLE POPULATION



JUNE 22 TO 24, 2025



KOF ROYAL TOUCH HOTEL, KOFORIDUA



Executive Summary

Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET), under the Other Vulnerable Populations (OVP) project, organized a three-day workshop from June 22 to 24, 2025, to strengthen the use of social media for HIV advocacy and awareness creation. The workshop aimed to develop gender and human rights-based social media campaigns targeting vulnerable populations particularly head porters (kayayei), miners, and fisherfolk who often face barriers in accessing HIV information and services.

The overall objective was to build the capacity of communication, gender, human rights, and digital experts to develop and implement effective social media campaigns aligned with the OVP project goals. Specifically, the workshop sought to deepen participants' understanding of the intersection between HIV, human rights, gender, and vulnerability in Ghana; explore social media as a tool for advocacy and behavioral change communication; develop practical campaign materials (jingles, flyers, and short video scripts); and secure participants' commitment to promoting HIV-related human rights, awareness, prevention, and treatment.

The three-day workshop combined expert presentations, guided discussions, and practical group work. Technical sessions introduced key concepts in HIV programming, gender and human rights frameworks, and digital advocacy strategies. Participants were divided into thematic groups to develop campaign materials addressing HIV-related human rights issues, stigma and discrimination, prevention, and treatment. Group outputs were presented and evaluated by a panel of facilitators, with winning teams awarded to recognize creativity and relevance.

The workshop brought together 35 carefully selected experts in gender, human rights, communication, social

media, and digital media. This workshop focused exclusively on subject matter experts in order to develop rights-based social media campaigns.

As a result of the workshop, participants produced practical, gender and human rights-based campaign materials tailored to vulnerable populations. They also committed to promoting HIV-related human rights and strengthening advocacy for kayayei, miners, and fisherfolk. The workshop further fostered cross-sector collaboration, enhancing networks among gender, human rights, and communication professionals to support sustained HIV advocacy efforts in Ghana.

Workshop Proceedings

The workshop consisted of four sessions over three days which focused on developing gender and human rights-based HIV social media campaigns.

Session I: Foundational Learning on HIV and Service Delivery

Facilitated by experts from National AIDS/STI Control Programme (NACP), this session covered HIV transmission, prevention, and treatment; HIV self-testing (HIVST); pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP); condom programming; ethical service delivery principles; and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT).

Session II: OVP Implementation and Human Rights Frameworks

Facilitated by GHANET, this session reinforced human rights and gender principles within the OVP project. Participants reviewed relevant legal and policy frameworks, including the Criminal and Other Offences Act, the Ghana AIDS Commission Act, the Patient Charter, and protections against stigma and discrimination. Discussions also addressed Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) and Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH).

Session III: Social Media and Campaign Development

Digital health experts introduced participants to the social media landscape, content creation strategies, and digital engagement techniques. Emphasis was placed on designing tailored campaigns to promote HIV awareness, prevention, treatment, and human rights protection among vulnerable populations.

Session IV: Presentation of Campaign Concepts

Participants, grouped by target populations (head porters, fisherfolk, and miners), presented jingles, flyers, short video scripts, and other digital materials. A panel reviewed and graded the presentations, with the head porters group winning first prize, followed by the fisherfolk and miners groups.

Conclusion

The workshop concluded with remarks from Mr. Ernest Amoabeng Ortsin, President, GHANET, who commended participants for their creativity and dedication. He hammered home the need to translate the developed campaign concepts into practical advocacy tools and encouraged sustained promotion of HIV-related human rights, awareness, prevention, and treatment initiatives for vulnerable populations in Ghana.





WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENT OF IE&C MATERIALS, GUIDE-LINES SOPS, PEER ENGAGEMENTS, DATA COLLECTION TOOLS AND MANUAL FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS



JUNE 26 TO 28, 2025



KOF ROYAL TOUCH HOTEL, KOFORIDUA

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Vulnerable populations in Ghana particularly head porters (kayayei), miners, and fisherfolk continue to face barriers in accessing HIV services due to stigma, discrimination, gender-based violence, and limited access to gender-sensitive and rights-based information. In response, Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET), in collaboration with National AIDS/STI Control Programme (NACP), organized a three-day workshop from June 26 to 28, 2025, at KOF Royal Touch Hotel in Koforidua. The workshop was held under the Other Vulnerable Populations (OVP) project.

The workshop aimed to strengthen participants' capacity to develop gender-sensitive and human rights-based tools for HIV prevention and service delivery. Specifically, it focused on developing tailored Information, Education, and Communication (IE&C) materials; drafting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that promote confidentiality and ethical service delivery; revising data collection tools to capture disaggregated and rights-based indicators; preparing peer engagement manuals for outreach; and improving coordination and harmonization across implementing partners.

A total of 35 participants attended, including NACP officials, gender and human rights experts, and field volunteers from 25 implementing partner organizations. The workshop adopted a practical, participatory approach combining presentations, group discussions, case study reviews, and guided drafting sessions. Participants were divided into three working groups based on target populations (head porters (kayayei), miners, and fisherfolk), with subject-matter experts providing technical guidance.

By the end of the workshop, participants had developed draft IE&C materials tailored to the three vulnerable groups; revised data collection tools to strengthen confidentiality and integrate gender and human rights indicators; drafted user-friendly SOPs to guide community entry, HIV self-testing (HIVST) distribution, counselling, and referral processes; and prepared peer engagement manuals for community outreach. A harmonized framework was agreed upon to ensure consistent implementation of these tools across all 25 partner organizations.

Workshop Proceedings

The workshop was structured into seven sessions over three days capitalizing the importance of integrating gender and human rights into HIV programming under the OVP project.

Session I: Overview of OVP Implementation in Ghana

Mr. Andrew Yilob Embireh, Secretary, GHANET, briefed participants on the scope, geographic coverage, and achievements of the OVP project, including HIV self-testing (HIVST) distribution and human rights education efforts. Implementation challenges, particularly the need for tailored communication strategies, were also discussed.



Mr. Andrew Yilob Embireh
(Secretary, GHANET)

Session II: Presentation on GHANET 2024 Data Report

Ms. Gladys Akwetey, Programmes Coordinator, GHANET, shared key statistics on outreach, HIVST distribution, referrals, and demographic data. Challenges related to data quality and client follow-up were discussed, underscoring the need for improved data systems.



Mr. Patrick Anamoo
(PRO, GHANET)

Session III: Overview of and Group Work on IE&C Materials for Vulnerable Populations

Existing HIV prevention and human rights materials were reviewed. Gaps were identified, including limited gender-sensitive language and insufficient representation of vulnerable groups. The need for culturally appropriate and simplified messaging was asserted.

Working groups reviewed existing materials and developed draft posters, leaflets, and audio-visual concepts tailored to their assigned populations. Feedback was provided in plenary for refinement.



Ms. Gladys Akwetey
(Programmes Coordinator, GHANET)

#CONDOMIZE

GHANA HIV AND AIDS NETWORK (GHANET)

FOR MORE INFO

- Spread love not the Virus
- Before you remove, think twice
- No protection no entry

www.ghanet.net
info@ghanet.net
 050-511-3302 | 026-022-1462
[ghanetgh](#)
 Ghana HIV and AIDS Network



Session IV: Overview of and Group Work on SOP Guidelines

The purpose and structure of SOPs were presented by Ms. Akwetey, underscoring the importance of consistency, ethical service delivery, confidentiality, and alignment with national standards.

Session V: Overview of and Group Work on Peer Engagement Manual

Ms. Rita Afriyie, Technical Coordinator, Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC), presented on the structure and purpose of the Peer Engagement Manual, focusing on outreach techniques, accurate information sharing, and confidentiality. Integration of gender and human rights principles was outlined.

Groups adapted the manual to reflect the realities of head porters, miners, and fisherfolk, including guidance on addressing stigma, misinformation, and confidentiality during outreach.

Session VI: GHANET Information Management System (GIMS)

Led by Mr. Edmund Mensah, Data Officer, GHANET, participants reviewed the GIMS data collection system and field distribution sheets. Recommendations were made to integrate gender and human rights indicators while ensuring practicality and confidentiality.

Session VII: Presentation of Final Draft Tools

On the final day of the workshop, Dr. Hilda Mantebea Boye, President, Ghana Paediatricians, led the presentation of the final draft versions of IE&C materials, SOPs, data tools, and peer engagement manuals. Final comments were documented.

Conclusion

The workshop successfully strengthened the capacity of 35 participants to develop gender and human rights-based tools for HIV prevention and service delivery among vulnerable populations. Draft IE&C materials, SOPs, revised data collection tools, and peer engagement manuals were produced and harmonized across implementing partners.

The integration of gender and human rights indicators into field tools marked a significant step toward more inclusive, ethical, and effective HIV programming under the OVP project. Continued collaboration and monitoring during the pilot phase will be critical to ensuring sustainable impact among head porters, miners, and fisherfolk in Ghana.

Participants presented on drafted SOPs covering community entry, HIVST distribution, counselling, referrals, and handling sensitive issues such as disclosure and gender-based violence.



Ms. Rita Afriyie
(Technical Coordinator, GAC)



Dr. Hilda Mantebea Boye
(President, Ghana Paediatricians)





Workshop on Syndromic Management of STIs



JUNE 29 TO JULY 2, 2025



KOF ROYAL TOUCH HOTEL, KOFORIDUA



Executive Summary

Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET) organized a three-day training workshop on Syndromic Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Strengthening of Referral Linkages between Community and Health Facility-Based Service Delivery from June 29 to July 2, 2025 at KOF Royal Touch Hotel, Koforidua. The training aimed to strengthen the capacity of healthcare providers from 25 OVP implementing districts to effectively manage STIs using the syndromic approach, improve partner notification systems, and reinforce referral coordination between community and facility-based services.

STIs remain a major public health concern in Ghana due to their prevalence, complications, and role in increasing HIV transmission risk. Challenges such as stigma, delayed treatment, limited diagnostic capacity, and inadequate training make the syndromic approach a practical and cost-effective strategy in low-resource settings.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Build healthcare workers' capacity in syndromic STI management.
- Improve understanding of STI–HIV linkages.
- Enhance clinical skills in history taking, examination, and diagnosis of common STI syndromes.
- Strengthen partner notification and management processes.
- Promote effective referral linkages between community-based and facility-based service delivery points

- Provide updates on national HIV/STI guidelines, prevention strategies, and reporting systems.

The methodology combined presentations, facilitated discussions, case studies, practical demonstrations, and role-plays. Facilitators from National AIDS/STI Control Programme (NACP) led technical sessions using national guidelines and flowcharts.

The workshop was attended by 50 participants, including Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) nurses from facilities receiving reactive referrals, district HIV focal persons from 25 implementing districts, and regional HIV focal persons from the five implementing regions (Ashanti, Central, Greater Accra, Eastern and Volta).

By the end of the training, participants demonstrated improved knowledge and skills in diagnosing and treating STI syndromes using flowchart-based decision-making tools. They were equipped to integrate HIV prevention services such as Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), and same-day ART initiation into routine STI care.

Referral roles were clarified among ART nurses and district and regional HIV focal persons, strengthening coordination across service levels. Participants committed to sustaining peer support networks and improving STI/HIV service delivery in their districts.

Workshop Proceedings

Day 1 Proceedings

The day led by Dr. Anthony Ashinyo, Deputy Programme Manager, National AIDS/STI Control Programme (NACP), began with an overview of STIs, HIV, and AIDS in Ghana, covering causes, modes of transmission, risk factors, and public health impact. He highlighted the link between untreated STIs and increased HIV transmission risk.

Dr. Ashinyo reviewed three approaches to STI care management with participants:

- Etiological diagnosis (laboratory-based)
- Clinical diagnosis (experience-based)
- Syndromic management (flowchart-based and symptom-oriented)

The advantages of the syndromic approach were discussed, including rapid treatment initiation and cost-effectiveness. The COPPER-T comprehensive care package (Counselling, Offer testing, Promote condoms, Partner management, Educate, Return, and Treatment) was introduced.



Dr. Anthony Ashinyo
(Deputy Programme Manager, NACP)

Common STI syndromes reviewed included urethral discharge, vaginal discharge, genital ulcers, pelvic inflammatory disease, scrotal swelling, inguinal bubo, neonatal conjunctivitis, genital warts, and ectoparasitic infections. He further provided guidance on history taking, physical examination, and treatment protocols for conditions such as gonorrhoea, chlamydia, and candidiasis.

Day 2 Proceedings

The first session led by Ms. Marijunatu Abdulai, Programme Officer, Strategic Information, NACP, focused on HIV epidemiology and burden. She reviewed global and national HIV statistics, Ghana's progress toward the 95-95-95 targets, and prevalence among key populations. The session covered HIV transmission, prevention tools (biomedical, behavioral, and structural interventions), and the importance of early diagnosis and treatment.

Dr. Ashinyo, still on STI syndrome management, then placed additional emphasis on lower abdominal pain and other parasitic skin infestations, particularly scabies and pubic lice. He reinforced flowchart-based diagnosis to support accurate clinical decision-making and appropriate treatment.

Dr. Kwadwo Koduah Owusu, Head of Treatment, Care and Support, NACP, facilitated a discussion on partner notification and management strategies, which including patient referral, provider referral, and combination approaches. The DAESICOMP acronym (Definition, Aetiology, Epidemiology, Signs/Symptoms, Investigations, Complications, Management) was introduced as a client education guide. Role-play exercises helped participants practice sensitive counseling conversations while minimizing domestic violence risks.



Ms. Marijunatu Abdulai
(Programme Officer, Strategic Information, NACP)



Dr. Kwadwo Koduah Owusu
(Head of Treatment, Care and Support, NACP)

The day concluded with a discussion led by Dr. Emmanuel A. Teviu, Programme Manager, NACP, stressing the importance of applying new knowledge, strengthening referral pathways, and addressing service delivery gaps.

Day 3 Proceedings

The third day began with an open discussion on facility-level challenges in diagnosing and managing STI syndromes in low-resource settings.

Dr. Ashinyo leading this session, focused on patient education, partner management, and counseling skills. The COPPER-T package was reinforced as a checklist for comprehensive care. He placed emphasis on breaking the chain of STI/HIV transmission through proper counseling, condom demonstrations, partner treatment, and follow-up.

Discussions with participants also revisited strengthening referral pathways between community actors and health facilities under the OVP Project framework. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to improving operational efficiency, strengthening collaboration, and sustaining networks of practice.



Dr. Emmanuel A. Teviu
(Programme Manager, NACP)



Conclusion

The training successfully enhanced the capacity of healthcare workers to deliver effective syndromic management of STIs while strengthening referral linkages between community and facility-based services.

Participants left with improved clinical skills, updated knowledge of national HIV/STI guidelines, practical tools for partner notification and counseling, and a strengthened referral framework. The collaboration established during the workshop is expected to improve case detection, ensure timely treatment, and contribute significantly to national STI and HIV control efforts.



WORKSHOP ON IE&C MATERIALS FOR IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS AND PEERS



JULY 3 TO 4, 2025



NASCO HOTEL, KOFORIDUA



Executive Summary

Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET) convened a two-day follow-up workshop under its OVP project to strengthen HIV prevention and support services for Other Vulnerable Populations (OVP). This workshop built on a previous technical session where draft Information, Education and Communication (IE&C) materials, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), data collection tools, and a Peer Engagement Manual were developed.

The objective was to review, validate, and finalize these draft documents to ensure they are practical, user-friendly, and adaptable to field realities. The workshop also sought to promote active participation of implementing partners (IPs) and volunteers, enhance their capacity to apply standardized tools effectively, and build consensus and commitment toward consistent implementation across all participating organizations.

Seventy-five (75) participants from five project regions comprising programme staff and selected volunteers from each implementing partner organization took part in the workshop. Using a plenary approach, facilitators guided participants through detailed reviews of each document, encouraging open discussion, technical input, and practical feedback to align the tools with both programme standards and community-level realities.

The workshop successfully finalized the IE&C materials, SOPs, data collection tools, and the Peer Engagement Manual. It strengthened ownership among implementing partners and volunteers, enhanced readiness for standardized implementation, and reinforced collaboration to ensure improved consistency and efficiency in delivering services to vulnerable populations.



Workshop Proceedings

The two-day workshop was structured into six sessions focused on reviewing and refining key operational documents and discussing field implementation challenges.

SESSION I: Presentation on the 2024 GHANET Data Report

This session was handled by Ms. Gladys Akwete, Programmes Coordinator, GHANET, who presented key findings from the 2024 GHANET Data Report. She commended implementing organizations for successfully increasing outreach to men through HIV self-testing (HIVST) services.

However, she expressed concern about the low reach among target groups: head porters (kayayei), fisherfolk, and miners. She noted that many organizations appeared to be focusing more on other population groups rather than the primary beneficiaries of the OVP project. She encouraged implementing partners to realign strategies to prioritize these vulnerable populations to ensure achievement of project objectives.

SESSION II: Review of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Participants reviewed the draft SOPs in detail. The session focused on simplifying technical language, ensuring consistency in tone and tense, and restructuring sections to enhance clarity.

Special attention was given to referral and reporting procedures, where clearer step-by-step guidance was introduced. The SOPs were refined into a practical and user-friendly document suitable for field use across implementing organizations.

SESSION III: Review of Data Collection Tools

This session examined the field implementation sheet, bin card, GHANET Information Management System (GIMS), and related reporting templates. Participants noted that certain indicators, such as marital status and educational

level, sometimes led to negative reactions from clients. Despite these challenges, it was agreed that these indicators remain critical for monitoring and evaluation and would therefore be retained.



SESSION IV: Review of IE&C Materials

Participants reviewed the design and content of the draft IE&C materials, including layout, color combinations, language, and illustrations.

Recommendations focused on ensuring simplicity, cultural appropriateness, and non-stigmatizing language tailored to head porters (kayayei), fisherfolk, and miners. Emphasis was placed on balancing text and visuals to improve understanding among audiences with low literacy levels. Agreement was reached on final design refinements.

SESSION V: Review of Peer Engagement Manual

The draft Peer Engagement Manual was reviewed to enhance its practicality for volunteers. Participants recommended simplifying language, clarifying instructions, and incorporating real-life examples from field experiences.

The discussion substantiated the importance of confidentiality, empathy, and respect when addressing sensitive issues related to HIV and human rights. The manual was refined to serve as a practical guide and reference tool for volunteers.

SESSION VI: Presentation of Final Drafts and Discussion of Field Implementation Challenges

In the final session, facilitators presented the revised IE&C materials, SOPs, data collection tools, and Peer Engagement Manual, incorporating feedback from previous discussions. Participants confirmed the documents were ready for field implementation.

The session also addressed challenges such as limited

resources, difficulty accessing certain target populations, delays in referrals, and occasional hostility toward volunteers during data collection. These discussions highlighted the need for additional support and ongoing capacity strengthening. The workshop concluded with a collective commitment to implement the finalized tools consistently.

Conclusion

The workshop successfully finalized key operational documents for the OVP project, including IE&C materials, SOPs, data collection tools, and Peer Engagement Manual. The participatory review process ensured that the documents are simplified, practical, and responsive to field realities.

By engaging both implementing partners and volunteers, the workshop strengthened ownership, improved

collaboration, and reinforced commitment to standardized implementation. It also provided a platform to address operational challenges and identify areas requiring additional support. Overall, the workshop marked a significant step toward improving the quality, consistency, and effectiveness of HIV prevention and support services for vulnerable populations.





STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP ON THE OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS (OVP) PROJECT



NOVEMBER 17 TO 21, 2025



NASCO HOTEL, KOFORIDUA



Executive Summary

Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET), under the Global Fund Grant Cycle Seven (GC7), organized a Stakeholder Engagement Workshop to strengthen implementation strategies for HIV prevention among Other Vulnerable Populations (OVP), specifically fisherfolk, miners, and head porters (kayayei). These groups face heightened HIV vulnerability due to socio-economic, occupational, and structural factors, compounded by limited access to tailored services.

The workshop aimed to engage district-level stakeholders in co-creating context-specific strategies, identifying barriers to HIV prevention and testing, improving community entry and trust-building, strengthening collaboration with local leadership structures, and informing adaptive programming under the OVP project.

Due to the large number of identified stakeholders, the workshop was conducted in two batches. The first batch brought together 84 participants from Ashanti, Volta, and Eastern Regions, while the second included 68 participants from Greater Accra and Central Regions, totaling 152 stakeholders. Participants included district health officials, traditional authorities, assembly members, religious leaders, and media practitioners.

The workshop generated practical, community-driven recommendations to enhance access, trust, and uptake of HIV prevention interventions, including HIV self-testing (HIVST). It strengthened stakeholder ownership and provided actionable insights to refine implementation strategies, particularly in community entry and demand creation.

Workshop Proceedings

Discussions focused on practical strategies for reaching OVP groups. Key issues discussed included:

- Difficulty locating miners due to the criminalization of illegal mining activities and their highly mobile nature
- Timing challenges in accessing fisherfolk, particularly on fishing days and during peak economic activity
- Language barriers and the need for culturally and linguistically appropriate communication approaches in accessing head porters
- Persistent fear, stigma, and misconceptions surrounding HIV testing
- Limited trust in external service providers and concerns around confidentiality.

Stakeholder Perspectives and Recommendations

- **Engagement of Traditional Authorities:**

Chiefs, chief fishermen, queen mothers, and opinion leaders were identified as critical gatekeepers whose involvement would legitimize interventions and mobilize community members.

- **Use of Snowballing and Peer Referral Approaches:**

Stakeholders recommended identifying trusted individuals or leaders within mining and fishing groups to introduce service providers and connect them to wider networks.

- **Faith-Based and Community Structures:**

Churches and mosques were highlighted as effective platforms for sensitisation, education, and mobilisation, particularly when messages are delivered by trusted leaders.

- **Strategic Timing of Activities:**

Interventions should be scheduled on non-working days (resting / taboo days) or during periods when target populations are most accessible.

- **Media Engagement:**

Local radio and community media were identified as powerful tools for awareness creation, normalization of HIV testing, and sustained messaging.

- **Use of Drama and Local Language Communication:**

Community drama and storytelling in local dialects were suggested as effective means to overcome literacy and language barriers.

- **Addressing Stigma and Voluntariness:**

Stakeholders strongly signaled that HIV testing must remain voluntary and rights-based, noting that compulsory testing would promote stigma and deter participation.



Conclusion

The Stakeholder Engagement Workshop provided a critical platform for dialogue, co-creation, and learning. Insights from stakeholders drew attention to the importance of culturally sensitive, community-led, and rights-based approaches in reaching Other Vulnerable Populations. The recommendations generated would directly inform adaptive programming under the OVP project to improve reach, acceptability, and impact.





OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS (OVP) PROJECT QUARTER THREE (Q3) REVIEW MEETING



DECEMBER 1 TO 3, 2025



NASCO HOTEL, KOFORIDUA



Executive Summary

The Other Vulnerable Populations (OVP) Project, implemented by Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET) under the Global Fund Grant Cycle Seven (GC7), seeks to reduce HIV vulnerability among miners, head porters (kayayei), and fisherfolk whose livelihoods and living conditions heighten their exposure to HIV infection and related human rights violations.

To assess implementation progress and strengthen project performance, GHANET organized an OVP Review Meeting. The meeting aimed to review field implementation, assess data quality and reporting performance on the GHANET Information Management System (GIMS), validate the revised field distribution sheet, and generate practical strategies to improve reach, coverage, and service effectiveness.

A total of 68 participants, comprising executive directors and their volunteers, attended the meeting. The meeting resulted in the validation and adoption of the revised field distribution sheet, reinforcement of reporting standards, identification of practical community-driven strategies, and strengthened collaboration between GHANET and implementing partners.

Workshop Proceedings

Project Implementation Review

Participants reviewed ongoing OVP field activities across implementing districts, with emphasis on outreach strategies, HIV self-testing (HIVST) distribution, condom provision, and integration of human rights education. Discussions reiterated the complexity of reaching OVP groups due to factors such as mobility, criminalization of certain livelihoods (e.g., illegal mining), language barriers, stigma, and fear of disclosure.

Data Management and Reporting

Discussion centred on the need for timely, accurate data entry into GIMS to support decision-making, donor reporting, and resource mobilization.

Challenges affecting data capture, including access to target populations, limitations in follow-up, and verification constraints, were discussed extensively. Partners shared experiences and lessons learned from the field to improve reporting consistency.

Strategies for Reaching OVP Groups

Drawing on the recommendations from the stakeholder engagement workshop that was organized to improve OVP project implementation, key approaches proposed included:

- Strengthening community entry through chiefs, opinion leaders, and group leaders

Recommendations

After the presentation on the recommendations arising from the stakeholder engagement workshop, participants engaged in a plenary session, resulting in the following suggestions:

1. Strengthen Community Entry and Stakeholder Engagement

Implementing partners should intensify community entry processes by engaging traditional authorities, community leaders, group heads, and opinion leaders to facilitate trust-building and acceptance among OVP target populations.

2. Adopt Peer-Led and Snowball Outreach Approaches

The use of peer educators and snowballing techniques should be reinforced to improve identification and mobilization of hidden and mobile OVP groups, particularly in mining and fishing communities.

- Applying snowball and peer-led outreach models
- Leveraging churches, mosques, and community-based associations for community mobilization
- Using local media and targeted sensitization to reduce fear and stigma
- Aligning service delivery schedules with community livelihood patterns (e.g., fishing days, mining shifts)

3. Align Service Delivery with Livelihood Patterns

HIV services should be scheduled to coincide with periods when target populations are most accessible, taking into account fishing calendars, mining shifts, market days, and migration patterns.

4. Enhance Targeted Sensitization and Risk Communication

Implementing partners should strengthen tailored HIV education, stigma reduction, and human rights messaging using local languages and culturally appropriate communication channels, including community meetings and local media platforms.



5. Improve Data Quality and Reporting Compliance

All implementing partners must ensure timely, accurate, and complete data entry into the GHANET Information Management System (GIMS) to support effective monitoring, accountability, and donor reporting.

6. Strengthen Integration of HIVST and Condom Distribution

HIV self-testing (HIVST) and condom distribution should continue to be integrated with rights-based education and referral services to promote informed decision-making and linkage to care.

7. Promote Continuous Learning and Adaptive Programming

GHANET and implementing partners should regularly document lessons learned and best practices to inform adaptive strategies and improve project performance across districts.



Conclusion

The OVP Review Meeting provided a critical platform for reflection, learning, and strategic alignment among implementing partners. The discussions reaffirmed the relevance of the OVP Project in addressing HIV vulnerability among underserved populations while highlighting the need for innovative, rights-based, and context-sensitive approaches.

The outcomes of the meeting are expected to strengthen implementation quality, improve data integrity, and enhance the overall effectiveness of the OVP Project as GHANET continues to contribute to Ghana's national HIV response.





HIV SELF-TESTING (HIVST) PROJECT QUARTER THREE (Q3) REVIEW MEETING



DECEMBER 10 TO 13, 2025



NASCO HOTEL, KOFORIDUA



Executive Summary

Ghana continues to adopt innovative strategies to expand access to HIV testing, particularly among underserved and hard-to-reach populations. HIV Self-Testing (HIVST) remains a key component of the national HIV response, promoting early diagnosis, increased testing uptake, and progress toward national and global HIV targets. Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET), under the auspices of National AIDS/STI Control Programme (NACP), convened an HIVST Review Meeting to assess implementation progress, examine emerging strategies, and deliberate on the proposed online HIVST delivery system as an additional distribution channel.

The meeting sought to review HIVST implementation experiences, assess strengths and challenges, evaluate the feasibility and risks of the online delivery model, and generate actionable recommendations to strengthen programming and linkage to care.

A total of 143 participants, comprising executive directors and volunteers, attended the meeting.

The meeting reaffirmed the value of community-based HIVST distribution while endorsing the HIVST online distribution system as a complementary strategy.



Workshop Proceedings

Overview of HIVST Implementation

Presentations showed that GHANET's HIVST interventions aim to widen HIV testing through community distribution, peer outreach, and integrated sexual and reproductive health education. Participants agreed that HIVST provides more privacy, confidentiality, and autonomy, especially for first-time testers, young people, and people less likely to visit facilities.

Data Management and Reporting

The main focus of the meeting was data quality and reporting. Partners were reminded to enter data into the GHANET Information Management System (GIMS) on time and accurately. This supports decision-making, and donor reporting.

Challenges affecting data capture, including access to target populations, limitations in follow-up, and verification constraints, were discussed extensively. Partners shared experiences and lessons learned from the field to improve reporting consistency.

Group Work on the Online HIVST Delivery System

Participants were divided into eight (8) groups. Each group examined the predicted successes, challenges, and recommendations associated with the proposed online HIVST delivery system.

Identified Strengths

- Increased accessibility and convenience, allowing clients to request HIVST kits anytime and anywhere

- Improved privacy and confidentiality, reducing stigma-related barriers
- Enhanced appeal to youth and digitally active populations
- An additional channel to support Implementing Partners in meeting program targets
- Potential to increase early detection, national coverage, and HIVST uptake

Identified Challenges

- Risk of system abuse, false requests, or prank orders
- Multiple or repeated requests from the same phone number
- Use of third-party phone numbers without consent
- Data costs and internet access limitations
- Language barriers for non-English speakers
- Limited education and counselling compared to face-to-face distribution
- Gaps in linkage to confirmatory testing and care, especially where clients opt out of follow-up
- Possible reduction in volunteer engagement if community models are sidelined



Recommendations

Based on group work and plenary discussions, the following recommendations were adopted:

Strategic Integration

- Maintain community-based HIVST distribution as the foundation of HIVST programming
- Implement the online HIVST delivery system strictly as a complementary approach.

System Strengthening and Safeguards

- Introduce one-time password (OTP) verification to validate genuine requests
- Strengthen system sensitivity to detect duplicate phone numbers
- Redesign or remove “do not follow-up” options to safeguard linkage to care
- Automatically link clients to the nearest Implementing Partner for follow-up

Linkage to Care and Counselling

- Integrate online counsellors or health professionals into the platform
- Provide clear referral pathways for confirmatory testing and treatment initiation
- Develop FAQs and guided educational tools to support users

Accessibility and Inclusion

- Introduce multi-language functionality, including key local dialects
- Explore USSD or feature-phone access for users without smartphones
- Optimize the platform for low-bandwidth environments

Demand Creation and Awareness

- Utilize social media as a primary awareness and demand-creation tool, especially targeting youth and the general population
- Clearly communicate that HIVST kits accessed through the platform are free of charge
- Explore inclusion of lubricated condoms within the online ordering system, in line with national policy and donor guidance

Conclusion

The HIVST Review Meeting confirmed HIV self-testing as a vital part of Ghana’s HIV response. Participants fully supported service innovation, while insisting on keeping and strengthening community approaches. Using an online HIVST system with safeguards and strong community links was seen as a way to boost reach, equity, and impact. The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to refining HIVST strategies to ensure no population is left behind in the national HIV response.





ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING



DECEMBER 21 TO 24, 2025



NASCO HOTEL, KOFORIDUA



Executive Summary

Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET) organized an Annual Review Meeting for Other Vulnerable Populations (OVP) and HIV Self-Testing (HIVST) projects under the Global Fund Grant Cycle Seven (GC7). The meeting provided a comprehensive platform to assess annual implementation performance, review data progress against set targets, identify operational gaps, and agree on strategic corrective actions.

The meeting also incorporated GHANET's Annual General Meeting (AGM), which focused on governance reforms, institutional strengthening, and constitutional review to enhance organizational effectiveness and sustainability. A total of 180 participants attended, including implementing partners for OVP and HIVST projects, regional representatives, volunteers, members of the GHANET National Executive Committee, and Secretariat staff. Key outcomes included adoption of a revised constitution, introduction of structured membership registration, and strengthened accountability measures.

Workshop Proceedings

HIVST and OVP Programmatic Updates

Presentations were made on:

- Overall implementation progress of the OVP project
- HIV Self-Testing service delivery, coverage, and demand trends
- Data performance, reporting gaps, and monitoring outcomes
- Financial and technical implementation status

Annual General Meeting

A formal Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held as part of the Annual Review Meeting. The AGM focused on governance reforms and institutional strengthening. Members conducted a structured review of the GHANET Constitution.

Constitutional Review Process

Members reviewed key sections of the amended constitution, including:

- Legal identity and organizational status
- Objectives and scope of work
- Membership eligibility and registration procedures
- Governance structures
- Financial obligations of members

Key Decisions and Outcomes

After extensive discussions, the General Assembly made the following resolutions:

- **Membership Registration:** Member registration will begin in the first quarter of 2026. Membership registration and status management will take place online.
- **Membership Dues:** Members approved a monthly dues, payable to the GHANET Secretariat, to support administrative and operational activities.

- **Next Annual General Meeting:** It was agreed that the next AGM will be convened in 2027.

- **Adoption of the Constitution:** After incorporating the agreed-upon amendments, the General Assembly formally adopted the revised constitution on December 23, 2025.

Way Forward

The meeting concluded with these commitments:

- Implement increased HIVST kit distribution to meet project targets.
- Operationalize the online membership registration system
- Enforce payment of approved monthly dues
- Implement the provisions of the newly adopted constitution
- Strengthen monitoring and coordination to improve project outcomes





Zero Discrimination Day



MARCH 29 TO 30, 2025



NATIONAL THEATRE, ACCRA



Introduction

The Zero Discrimination Day 2025 commemoration was held at the National Theatre in Accra from March 29 to 30. Although globally observed on March 1, the Ghana event was scheduled later to maximize participation by civil society, development partners, and the public. Established by UNAIDS, Zero Discrimination Day promotes equality, human dignity, and inclusion, with the 2025 theme **“We Stand Together”** calling attention to collective action against all forms of discrimination, particularly stigma linked to health, gender, and social identity.

The event featured a play dubbed **“Behind the Walls”**, which explored societal issues such as stigma, discrimination, abuse, and social exclusion. The play’s emotional storytelling and relatable characters complemented the advocacy goals of the event, helping audiences reflect on the hidden impact of prejudice while reinforcing the importance of empathy, inclusion, and human dignity.

Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET) supported the program by providing free HIV self-testing (HIVST) kits, counseling, and education on prevention and stigma reduction, demonstrating how rights-based events can be leveraged for meaningful health impact.

Program and Activities

Over two days, the event combined advocacy, culture, and health outreach. Key activities included:

- Public engagements and testimonies from community leaders and individuals with lived experiences.
- Cultural performances celebrating diversity and unity, including “Behind the Walls”.
- Interactive sessions connecting attendees with advocacy and rights-based organizations.
- On-site HIV testing and education facilitated by GHANET and UNAIDS.

GHANET-UNAIDS HIV Outreach

The HIV sensitization and testing initiative reached 107 individuals (34 females, 73 males), using 12 oral-based and 95 blood-based test kits. Most participants (99) received assisted testing, with 8 opting for unassisted testing. By integrating HIV services into the broader event, GHANET and UNAIDS helped normalize testing, reduce stigma, and educate the public on prevention and care.

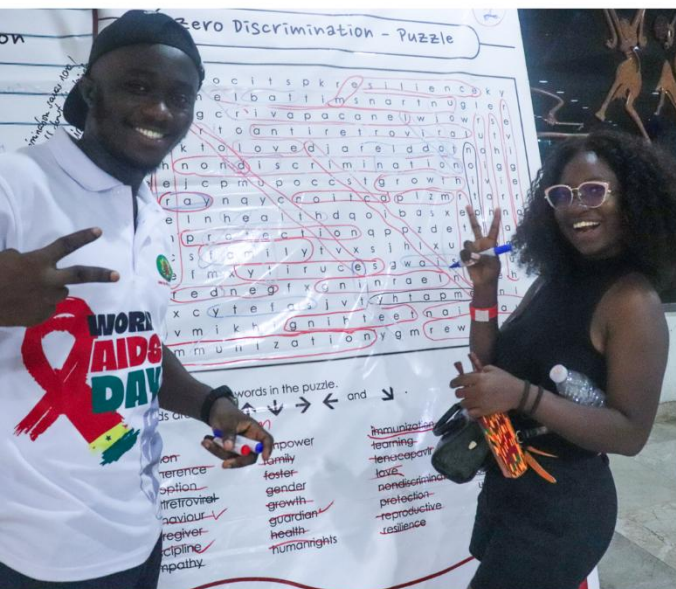
Participation

The event attracted government representatives, UN officials, civil society leaders, human rights advocates, community members and cultural figures. UNAIDS representatives underscored the role of communities in ending discrimination, particularly in healthcare, while local actors reinforced messages of equality, inclusion, and respect for human dignity.

Impact and Significance

The 2025 Zero Discrimination Day commemoration:

- Raised public awareness on discrimination and its effects on rights and access to services.
- Strengthened civic engagement by combining advocacy, culture, and health outreach.
- Promoted HIV stigma reduction and access to testing.
- Reinforced partnerships among government, civil society, and international organizations.
- Embedded HIV services into a rights-based celebration, where GHANET and UNAIDS demonstrated the practical connection between equality, health, and community well-being.



Conclusion

The Zero Discrimination Day 2025 celebration successfully blended advocacy, culture, and public health under the theme **"We Stand Together."**

The event exemplified how rights-based events can promote health, reduce stigma, and increase awareness, **"Behind the Walls"** reinforced the message that no one should face discrimination or exclusion.

The program reached a diverse audience and noted the power of community, culture, and collective action in advancing human rights and social inclusion.



EASTER @ THE BEACH SAFE-SEX CAMPAIGN



APRIL 20 TO 21, 2025



LA PLEASURE BEACH, ACCRA



Introduction

On April 20 to 21, 2025, Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET), under the aegis of National AIDS/STI Control Programme (NACP), implemented a safe-sex campaign themed **“Easter @ the Beach Safe-Sex Campaign.”**

The initiative took place at La Pleasure Beach, located along the shores of Labadi, Accra, held during the Easter holiday festivities, a peak period of social engagement. The campaign aimed to promote safe-sex practices, reduce HIV-related stigma, and increase access to voluntary HIV testing.

The public sensitization efforts included free distribution of HIV Self-Testing (HIVST) kits and condoms to hundreds of holidaymakers.

These efforts were supported by face-to-face education, on-site testing guidance, and targeted outreach designed to encourage individuals to know their HIV status and adopt responsible sexual health behaviors.

Key Activities and Distribution

Provision of Preventive Materials

- A total of 111,500 condoms were distributed to beachgoers as part of the preventive efforts.
- Over 300 HIV self-testing kits (CheckNOW and OraQuick brands) were disseminated to promote early detection and encourage responsible health practices.

Confidential HIV Testing and Support Counselling

- A significant number of individuals voluntarily participated in on-site HIV testing.
- Comprehensive counseling services were provided, offering education on HIV prevention, the testing process, and available treatment and care options.

Community Outreach and Public Education

- Groups of trained volunteers actively engaged beach revellers, providing education on safe sexual practices and the significance of knowing one’s HIV status.
- Targeted awareness activities addressed the increased risk of unsafe sexual behavior during festive periods, aiming to promote safer choices among beachgoers.

Summary of Daily HIV Self-Test Kit Distribution

The table below provides an summary of the daily distribution of CheckNOW (Abbott) and OraQuick (Oral-Fluid) HIV self-testing kits throughout the campaign:

Date	Total Kits Distributed	CheckNow	Oral-Fluid
April 20, 2025	172	108	64
April 21, 2025	188	147	41
Total	360	255	105

Campaign Highlights

Mr. Ernest Amoabeng Ortsin, President, GHANET, spoke on Ghana's significant progress in reducing HIV prevalence while warning that dwindling donor support particularly the suspension of USAID funding threatens to undermine these achievements.

"The biggest challenge we currently face is the stop-work order from the U.S. government, which has dealt a major blow to our funding efforts," he stated. He called on the Ghanaian government to fulfill its commitments outlined in the 2025 budget and expedite the operationalization of the National HIV and AIDS Fund.

"We urge the government to allocate more resources toward the fight against HIV/AIDS, as pledged in the budget," he emphasized. In addition to addressing funding gaps, GHANET continues to promote HIV prevention strategies, including self-testing, which enhances early diagnosis, confidentiality, and personal health management.

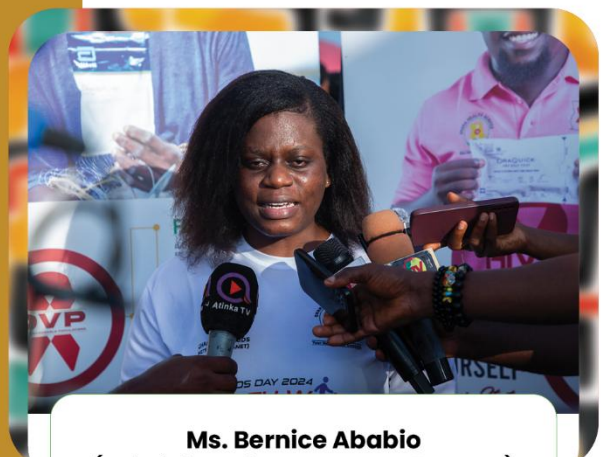
Recognizing that festive periods may increase risky behaviors, GHANET leveraged the Easter celebrations to encourage HIV testing and safe-sex practices through self-testing kits and condom distribution.

Ms. Bernice Ababio, Administrative Manager, GHANET, highlighted the impact of community-based health outreach. She emphasized the importance of delivering health interventions directly to communities: **"Our presence here today is about meeting people in their own environment and ensuring these vital resources are easily accessible."**

Ms. Ababio also spotlighted stigma as a key barrier in the HIV response, noting that reducing discrimination is essential to encouraging more individuals to get tested and seek treatment.



Mr. Ernest Amoabeng Ortsin
(President, GHANET)



Ms. Bernice Ababio
(Administrative Manager, GHANET)

Impact

Participation

About 115,000 condoms and 360 test kits were distributed at the event.

Increased Awareness

The campaign helped change misconceptions about HIV prevention and treatment.

Call for More Funding

The campaign spotlighted the urgent need for greater domestic funding to sustain HIV programs and keep them on track to end AIDS by 2030.



Conclusion

Ghana's fight against HIV and AIDS has reached a breaking point. Community-led efforts, such as the La Pleasure Beach campaign, point out the importance of widespread testing and education. However, the long-term success of these initiatives depends on strong domestic funding and unwavering political commitment.

With international aid declining, government must urgently activate the National HIV and AIDS Fund and honor its 2025 budget commitments. Reaching the 2030 goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat will require unified national action, continued stigma reduction, and reliable, long-term investment. The time for bold, decisive measures is now.





Lordina Mahama Foundation (Health Screening and Sensitization)



JULY 4, 2025



**ACCRA METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY
(AMA), ACCRA**



On Friday, July 4, 2025, Her Excellency Lordina Dramani Mahama (First Lady of the Republic of Ghana) led a free public medical outreach at the forecourt of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) in central Accra.

Hosted by the Lordina Foundation in partnership with Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC) and AMA. This was supported by the Deputy Chief of Staff of Administration of Ghana, Hon. Nana Oye Bampoe Addo, who also served as Chairperson for the outreach; Hon. Dr. Agnes Naa Momo Lartey, Minister for Gender and Social Protection; Hon. Linda Obenewaa Akweley Ocloo, Minister for Greater Accra; Hon. Alfred Allotey-Gaisie, MCE for Korle Klottey; MP for Odododiodio Constituency; Hon. Michael Kpakpo Allotey, Mayor of Accra; and Traditional leaders.

Dr. Kharmacelle Prosper Akanbong, Director-General, GAC, explained that the purpose of the outreach was to reach vulnerable groups and traders in market centres who rarely seek healthcare services.

The initiative accentuated the importance of early detection in saving lives and promoting long-term health.

During the event, the First Lady underscored a critical message: **"Early testing saves lives!"** She accented that many severe health conditions can be effectively managed if detected early, stressing that knowing one's health status is not only vital for personal well-being but also for protecting loved ones.

The First Lady further reiterated Government's broader commitment to strengthening access to quality healthcare services and improving health outcomes nationwide. She referenced the recent launch of the Ghana Medical Trust Fund also known as MahamaCares which is dedicated to supporting the management and treatment of non-communicable diseases.

Introduction

Objectives

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness on key health issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide free medical check-ups |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer essential counselling and medical advice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empower participants to take control of their health |

Beneficiaries received screenings and services such as:

- HIV and Syphilis testing
- BMI assessments and nutrition counselling
- Blood pressure checks
- General health condition screenings
- Breast cancer screenings
- HIV/AIDS prevention education and condom distributions

Impact from GHANET

A total of 274 people were tested during the outreach. A total of 216 females and 58 males were attended to. One hundred and seventy-seven (177) people opted for unassisted testing, while ninety-seven (97) opted to be assisted for the testing. The number of condoms distributed was twenty thousand and eighty-three (20,083).



Conclusion

Lordina Mahama Foundation’s health screening initiative successfully brought essential healthcare services closer to vulnerable populations, particularly traders and market women who often have limited access to medical care.

Through strategic partnerships with GAC and AMA, the outreach not only provided free screenings and counselling but also reinforced the importance of early detection and preventive healthcare.

The turnout and range of services delivered reflected the growing need for community-based health interventions. Overall, the outreach made a meaningful impact by improving health awareness, encouraging early testing, and empowering participants to take proactive steps toward healthier lives.





Festivals (Health Screening and Sensitization)



Aboakyer Festival

Introduction

Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET), in partnership with Kyere Foundation, organized a health activation during this year's Aboakyer Festival in Winneba under the theme **"Aboakyer Against HIV."** The event took place at Winneba in the central region on May 3, 2025. The festival, which brings together thousands from across the country, provided an opportunity to engage a large and diverse audience in HIV awareness and testing while they participated in cultural celebrations.

The goal of the activation was to encourage people to know their HIV status, reduce stigma around testing, and promote safer sex practices. To achieve this, GHANET and Kyere Foundation set up a health screening post on the climax day of the festival, providing HIV testing using self-test kits, along with blood pressure checks, blood sugar tests, malaria testing, and condom distribution.

By offering these additional health services, we were able to attract people who might otherwise have been hesitant to approach the booth solely for HIV testing, allowing us to open conversations around HIV prevention in a comfortable and non-judgmental setting.



Results and Key Outcomes

Total Kits Distributed	Unassisted Testing	Unassisted Testing	Blood-Based	Oral-Fluid
140	126	14	119	21

Male condoms were also distributed as part of our prevention strategy, and many attendees took the opportunity to ask questions about correct condom use, showing an interest in taking practical steps to protect themselves.

Community Engagement

The activation confirmed that festivals and other community gatherings are effective platforms for HIV outreach and testing. They provide a relaxed environment where people are more open to discussing health and are willing to participate in testing without feeling singled out.

We also noted that combining HIV testing with general health checks made people feel more at ease, reducing fear and stigma associated with HIV testing. Additionally, local partnerships, such as with Kyere Foundation, played a crucial role in gaining community trust and ensuring smooth implementation of the activation.



Conclusion

Moving forward, GHANET plans to replicate this model at other major festivals across Ghana to continue promoting HIV testing and prevention in community spaces. We aim to build on the momentum from the Aboakyer Festival to normalize HIV testing, increase the uptake of self-test kits, and continue to encourage safer sex practices among the public.

The success of this activation was made possible through the collaboration and commitment of all stakeholders, including the festival organizers, health workers, volunteers, and the people of Winneba, who participated openly and positively. Together, we have taken another meaningful step toward reducing HIV stigma and improving community health in Ghana.



Bakatue Festival

Introduction

On July 5, 2025, at the Elmina Castle, the vibrant Edina Bakatue Festival served as a dynamic platform for transformative health outreach. Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET), in collaboration with the Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem (KEEA) HIV Focal Person, conducted a community health initiative at the historic Elmina Castle Forecourt.

Amidst traditional drumming, energetic dances, and large crowds gathered to mark the opening of the Benya Lagoon, GHANET effectively integrated public health promotion into the cultural celebration. The festival, a symbol of unity and gratitude for a prosperous fishing season, created an ideal setting to reinforce the message that health is a shared community responsibility.

Festival attendees had access to free HIV self-test kits and male condoms, supported by on-the-spot guidance and interactive face-to-face education from trained volunteers. The initiative generated strong interest, with participants actively engaging in screenings, embracing opportunities to know their HIV status, and contributing to efforts to reduce HIV-related stigma.

The event successfully blended culture and wellness, fostering empowerment, awareness, and a collective commitment to healthier futures.



Health Support And Free Screening

The screening sessions recorded about 150 individuals taking the bold step to know their status. Additionally, 2,880 male condoms were distributed, reinforcing messages of prevention and responsible sexual health. The outreach extended beyond HIV services, as dedicated nurses from the regional hospital offered blood pressure and malaria screenings, enabling participants to detect potential health concerns early.

Observations

Offering HIV self-testing, malaria testing, and blood pressure checks generated strong participation in the festival health screening.

This integrated approach provided a comprehensive platform for health promotion and disease prevention, meeting multiple health needs in one accessible setting.

Many participants expressed appreciation for the convenience of the services, especially the free HIV self-test kits, male condoms, and engaging on-site educational sessions.

The face-to-face guidance created safe spaces for open conversations about HIV, encouraged responsible sexual behaviours, and supported stigma reduction.

Furthermore, early detection of health conditions enabled timely referrals and follow-up care for individuals requiring additional medical attention, reinforcing the initiative's overall impact.



Conclusion

In conclusion, the health screening conducted by GHANET during the Edina Bakatue Festival 2025 clearly demonstrated the power of leveraging cultural events to deliver accessible, integrated, and people-centred health services.

By combining HIV prevention, testing, and general health screenings within a festive and welcoming environment, the initiative boosted community engagement, promoted healthier behaviours, and enabled early detection with timely referrals.

This approach showcases the importance of community-based interventions in strengthening public health awareness and improving health outcomes in the Central Region and beyond.





Asafotufiami Festival

Introduction

On August 2, 2025, at Ada, Greater Accra, Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET), in collaboration with Kyere Foundation, conducted a health screening at the Big Ada Community Park during the 88th Asafotufiami Festival.

The Asafotufiami Festival is an annual musketry festival celebrated by the people of Ada State, Ghana. This year's theme was **"Peace, Unity, and Justice: The Pillars of Our Progress."** GHANET leveraged the festivities to promote safer sexual behaviours, reduce HIV-related stigma, improve overall wellness, facilitate early

detection of HIV, increase access to voluntary testing, and engage the community in health matters.

The screening included the free distribution of HIV self-test kits and male condoms to many attendees.

These initiatives were further supported by on-site guidance and face-to-face education, encouraging individuals to know their status, adopt responsible sexual health practices, and seek timely care when needed.



Health Support And Free Screening

GHANET played a significant role by supplying HIV self-test kits for festival attendees. Additionally, 23,616 male condoms were distributed as part of the HIV prevention methods. Kyere Foundation provided malaria testing and blood pressure checks, enabling early detection of potential health issues.

Observations

The health screening initiative recorded strong participation from individuals in attendance at the festival. The integration of HIV self-testing, malaria screening, and blood pressure checks ensured a holistic approach to health promotion and disease prevention.

Participants conveyed appreciation for the ease of access to the services, particularly the free provision of HIV self-test kits, male condoms, and on-site health education. The personalized, face-to-face engagement encouraged open discussions on HIV, promoted responsible sexual practices, and contributed to stigma reduction.

Additionally, the festive environment fostered a friendly and inclusive atmosphere that enhanced the accessibility of health services. Early detection through on-site screening also facilitated timely referrals for individuals requiring further medical evaluation and care.



Conclusion

The 88th Asafotufiami Festival proved to be a valuable community health intervention for GHANET by leveraging the festival's large turnout and cultural significance. The initiative not only promoted safer sexual behaviours and reduced HIV-related stigma but also enhanced early detection and improved access to voluntary testing services.

The positive response from participants highlights the importance of integrating such health initiatives into major community events, where they can reach a broad audience in an approachable and culturally relevant setting. Sustained HIV prevention, regular community-based testing, and continuous education will be vital in strengthening the fight against HIV and AIDS in Ghana.





Fetu Afahye Festival

Introduction

On September 6, 2025, at Cape Coast, Central Region, Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET) conducted a community-centred HIV outreach during the Fetu Afahye Festival in the Cape Coast (Oguaa) Traditional Area.

The Fetu Afahye Festival is a major cultural event characterised by traditional rites, drumming, dancing, and a grand durbar, and is observed by the people of Oguaa as a period of thanksgiving and purification.

The Afahye celebrations have two connected components: Orange Friday, a modern, youth-focused segment marked by street carnivals, music, and informal social activities; and the Fetu Afahye Festival itself, which is the traditional and ceremonial climax featuring sacred rites, royal processions, and the durbar of chiefs. While both are part of the celebrations, Fetu Afahye holds greater cultural authority and involves the wider community.

GHANET leveraged the large public gathering to advance its mandate of promoting safer sexual behaviours, reducing HIV-related stigma, supporting early HIV detection, and expanding access to voluntary HIV testing services. Outreach activities included the distribution of HIV self-test kits and male condoms to festival participants.

These services were complemented by on-site education and counselling, which encouraged individuals to know their HIV status and adopt responsible sexual health practices.



Health Support And Free Screening

About 130 individuals were screened. In addition, 28,800 male condoms were distributed, reinforcing HIV prevention messaging and supporting safer sexual behaviours within the community.



Participation

The outreach captured both youth and adults actively engaging in screening and prevention services. The availability of free HIV self-test kits and condoms, combined with a supportive and non-judgmental environment, facilitated open interaction with health educators.

This enabled meaningful discussions on HIV prevention, stigma reduction, and responsible sexual behaviour. Community engagement reflected acceptance of the intervention and demonstrated the effectiveness of integrating health services into culturally significant events.

Conclusion

The outreach conducted during the Fetu Afahye Festival effectively demonstrated the value of leveraging large cultural gatherings as entry points for delivering HIV prevention and testing services. GHANET's presence at the festival enabled direct engagement with community members in a familiar and trusted setting.

Through the provision of HIV self-test kits, condoms, and targeted health education, the intervention enhanced awareness, encouraged proactive health-seeking behaviour, and supported informed decision-making. The activity underscores the continued relevance of culturally grounded, community-led approaches in advancing public health objectives and expanding access to HIV services.





Dodowa Ngmayem Festival

Introduction

The 2025 Dodowa Ngmayem Festival, held on October 4, at Dodowa Presby Park in the Shai-Osudoku District, Greater Accra Region, themed “**Environmental Protection, Unity, and Respect for Tradition**” was a vibrant celebration of culture, heritage, and community unity.

Rooted in the agricultural traditions of the Shai people, the festival marked the annual thanksgiving for a successful harvest while also serving as a platform for dialogue on development, environmental protection, and social responsibility.

Beyond its cultural significance, the 2025 edition of the festival stood out for its strong public health dimension. Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET) strategically leveraged the large gathering to promote HIV awareness, education, and testing.

Recognizing the festival as an opportunity to reach diverse segments of the population, GHANET organized a community-based outreach that provided free HIV testing services, counseling, and education on prevention and stigma reduction.

Individuals Tested
107

Oral-Fluid
12

Blood-Based
95

This integration of health services into a major cultural event demonstrated how traditional festivals can be transformed into powerful platforms for advancing public health, social inclusion, and community well-being.

The 2025 Ngmayem Festival therefore not only celebrated tradition but also reinforced the importance of using culture as a vehicle for education, prevention, and positive social change.

Key Note Address

Nene Oklekmeku Atropa II, the Dodowa Tadonya Mantse (Paramount Chief), delivered an address emphasizing the importance of preserving cultural heritage and strengthening unity among the people, chaired the durbar proceedings. His leadership set the tone for the festival, highlighting tradition as a foundation for community development and social harmony.

Key Note Speakers

Several high-profile national and regional leaders also graced the occasion.



Hon. Julius Debrah, Chief of Staff to the President of Ghana, attended as a principal guest and speaker, delivered messages of national unity and reaffirming government support for cultural heritage.



Hon. Linda Obenewaa Akweley Ocloo, Greater Accra Regional Minister and Member of Parliament for Shai-Osudoku, spoke on community development and empowerment, with particular emphasis on women and local businesses.



Also, Hon. Ignatius Godfred Dordoe, District Chief Executive of the Shai-Osudoku District Assembly, represented the local government and reaffirmed commitment to community-focused programmes.

Although His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, was unable to attend in person, he conveyed warm greetings through the Chief of Staff, encouraging citizens to remain committed to cultural values and national unity.

Collectively, these leaders reinforced the festival's theme of environmental protection, unity, and respect for tradition, linking cultural pride with broader social and developmental goals, as highlighted by Modern Ghana.

Impact and Significance

The 2025 Ngmayem Festival achieved multiple social and cultural objectives. It successfully celebrated the rich heritage and agricultural history of the Shai people, while also promoting unity among community members, visitors, and stakeholders. The festival encouraged environmental sustainability and cultural responsibility, aligning tradition with contemporary development priorities.

Importantly, the inclusion of GHANET's HIV education and testing outreach strengthened the festival's impact by addressing a critical public health need. In addition, the strong presence of government officials and traditional leaders enhanced civic engagement and reinforced collaboration between community structures and state institutions.

Conclusion

The 2025 Dodowa Ngmayem Festival proved to be more than a cultural celebration; it emerged as a community-driven event with national relevance. Under the theme, the festival successfully blended heritage with modern advocacy, combining cultural thanksgiving with meaningful public health intervention. GHANET's HIV education and testing interventions demonstrated the effective use of cultural events as platforms to advance health awareness, combat stigma, and enhance overall community well-being.



Deza Festival (Health Screening and Sensitization)

Introduction

On October 25, 2025, at Deza Durbar ground, Dzodze, Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET), together with the Mama Egbo II Foundation, conducted a health screening during the Festival. The festival, held annually in October to honour the coconut palm, featured thanksgiving rituals and community celebration.

The 2025 event, themed **“Oil Palm Odyssey: Exploring the Economic Potential of Oil Palm for Industrialisation and Jobs in Ketu North,”** drew a large turnout and served as a platform for public health outreach.

GHANET promoted HIV self-testing and prevention, offering free self-test kits, male condoms, and individual education on safe sexual practices and stigma reduction. The Ketu North Municipal Health Directorate supported the event with blood pressure checks and vital assessments, underscoring strong community participation.

The event was attended by key dignitaries, including Torgbui Dzoku V, Paramount Chief and President of the Dzodze Traditional Council; Dutor Nyornu Fia Mama Egbo II, Queen Mother; Hon. Eric Edem Agbana, Member of Parliament for Ketu North; and Hon. Rev. Martin Prince Korbla Amenaki, Municipal Chief Executive, among others.

In their remarks, the leaders underscored the importance of unity and collective action in advancing development across agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, and the overall well-being of the people of Ketu North.



Health Promotion and Free Screening

During the event, GHANET played a pivotal role in advancing public health and HIV prevention. GHANET provided free HIV self-test kits and other preventive materials to festival attendees, resulting in 121 individuals receiving HIV screening. 72,000 male condoms were also distributed.

Additionally, the Health Directorate assisted by providing blood pressure checks to support early detection and management of potential health conditions among participants.

Observation

As part of the 2025 Deza Festival, a comprehensive community health screening was conducted, integrating HIV self-testing and blood pressure checks to promote preventive healthcare. Festival attendees actively participated, benefiting from free HIV self-test kits, male condoms, and on-site health education.

Health professionals facilitated open discussions on HIV, addressed misconceptions, and promoted responsible sexual behaviour and stigma reduction.

The festival setting enhanced access to health services and enabled early screening, referrals, and follow-up where necessary, demonstrating the effectiveness of cultural events as platforms for community health outreach.



Recommendations

- Mobilization and awareness for health screening should be enhanced to increase participation.
- Make health outreach a permanent feature of future Deza Festivals to sustain community engagement.
- Expand screening to include blood sugar and weight checks to increase participation.
- Increase youth engagement through peer educators and school-based sensitization on sexual and reproductive health.

With continued collaboration among traditional authorities, health institutions, and community stakeholders, the Deza Festival can remain both a cultural and health-promoting event, reflecting Dzodze's commitment to holistic community development.

Conclusion

The integration of HIV health screening into the 2025 Deza Festival elevated the celebration beyond its cultural significance, positioning it as a strategic platform for public health advancement. By promoting early detection and fostering informed engagement, the initiative strengthened trust between healthcare providers and the community, reinforcing the role of cultural events as catalysts for improved health outcomes.





Hogbetsotso Festival (Health Screening and Sensitization)

Introduction

The Hogbetsotso Festival has a rich history dating back to the 17th century. It is celebrated by the people of Anlo, a subgroup of the Ewe ethnic group in Ghana's Volta Region.

The festival honours the culture and heritage of the Anlo people and is an annual event that brings together participants from across Ghana and the diaspora.

This year's celebration happened at Hogbe park, Anloga, on November 1, 2025, under the theme **"Building Bridges: From a Common History to a Common Destiny,"**. The festival showcased colourful traditional regalia, music, and dance, highlighting the rich cultural heritage of the Anlo.

The festival brought together many high-profile individuals, including the Akwamuhene, Odeneho Kwafo Ako to III, who was the special guest of honour. Other notable attendees included Torgbi Agbesi Awusu II (Awadada of Anlo), Johnson Asiedu Nketia (National Chairman, NDC), Hon. James Gunu (Volta Regional Minister), and Ayigbe Edem (musician).

The event was presided over by the Awoamefia of Anlo, Torgbi Sri III, and attracted thousands of attendees. Notable highlights included the rekindling of the Anlo-Akwamu alliance, a gesture of renewed peace and cooperation across the cultural landscape, and vibrant displays of Anlo culture through music and dance.



HIV Screening and Health Education

To promote early detection and HIV awareness, Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET), in collaboration with the Community Vulnerable Children Organisation and Seek to Save Foundation, organised free HIV screening and education, leveraging the large audience.

Over 400 people participated in voluntary and confidential on-site HIV testing. Of these, about 300 were first-time testers. Some individuals opted for unassisted testing, using HIV self-test kits provided to them. In addition to screening, the team distributed free condoms, emphasizing the importance of safe-sex practices.

Pre-test and post-test counselling were offered to all testers. Individuals with non-reactive results received education on HIV preventive measures, while those with reactive results were advised to seek confirmatory testing and, if positive, adhere to treatment.



Participation

Data from the activation showed that more men were tested than women, indicating that men are increasingly placing greater importance on their health.

Individuals who were tested or received test kits and condoms expressed excitement about the initiative. For many, it provided an opportunity to get tested that they might not otherwise have had due to limited access to health facilities.

However, one participant expressed concern about the lack of HIV education for youth, noting that many people believe that HIV is no longer a threat.

Conclusion

The activation successfully bridged cultural celebration and health advocacy, reinforcing the idea that community health is a shared responsibility.

It is recommended that similar activations be organized at future festivals and other gatherings to integrate health services into cultural events, thereby promoting wellness and inclusivity.





Health Screening and Sensitization at Tertiary Institutions

Rotaract Club of Ring Road Central (UG)

On Saturday, June 14, 2025, Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET) participated in a health screening organised by the Rotaract Club of Accra Ring Road Central in collaboration with the Rotaract Club of the University of Ghana at the University of Ghana, Legon. The outreach promoted preventive healthcare among students through voluntary and confidential HIV testing, HIV prevention education, and condom distribution.

Additional services included reproductive health and family planning support from Marie Stopes, as well as blood pressure, blood sugar, and hepatitis B screenings. Health education sessions emphasized youth involvement in public health initiatives and strengthened collaboration between civil society organisations and youth-led groups, reinforcing the importance of accessible, youth-centred health services in empowering students to make informed decisions.



Individuals Tested
119

Oral-Fluid
68

Blood-Based
51

Male Condoms Distributed
1,920



Commonwealth Hall, University of Ghana Screening

On Friday, July 18, 2025, Commonwealth Hall organised a health screening exercise as part of its annual hall celebration, with active participation from GHANET. The outreach aimed to promote overall wellness and raise awareness about HIV prevention and healthy lifestyle practices.

The exercise combined voluntary HIV testing and counselling with sensitization on prevention methods and safer sexual behaviors. Recreational activities such as card games, Ludo, and PlayStation created a relaxed environment that enhanced student engagement. The initiative successfully integrated health education with interactive participation, encouraging open discussions on sexual health and reducing stigma associated with HIV testing.

Individuals Tested
132

Oral-Fluid
79

Blood-Based
53

Male Condoms Distributed
7,200



University of Ghana Business School Screening

On July 23, 2025, at the University of Ghana Business School, GHANET conducted a health screening exercise in collaboration with the Public Administration Students' Association (PASAL). The initiative focused on HIV awareness and student well-being.

The outreach affirmed health education, stigma reduction, self-care, and responsible health practices. Strong student participation before and after lectures reflected their proactive health-seeking behaviour, contributing to a supportive campus environment committed to student wellness.

Individuals Tested
151

Oral-Fluid
81

Blood-Based
70

Male Condoms Distributed
2,880

University of Ghana MELSSA Screening

On Thursday, August 14, 2025, University of Ghana Medical Laboratory Sciences Students' Association (MELSSA), in collaboration with GHANET, organised a health screening exercise at the SRC Union Building.

Beyond GHANET's HIV sensitization and testing, MELSSA provided malaria screening, blood pressure checks, and testing for hepatitis, syphilis, and blood type.



Individuals Tested
124

Oral-Fluid
74

CheckNow
50

Male Condoms Distributed
2,880

UPSA Student Sexual and Mental Health Outreach

On November 5, 2025, GHANET, in collaboration with Information Technology Studies Association (ITSA), organised a comprehensive health screening and awareness outreach at the University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA). The initiative integrated sexual and mental health education with HIV prevention services.

Expert-led sessions addressed sexual and reproductive health rights, HIV transmission and prevention, academic stress, mental health resilience, and informed decision-making. The engagement demonstrated the effectiveness of combining screening, counselling, and advocacy to empower students to take proactive steps toward their physical, mental, and sexual well-being.



Individuals Tested

100

Oral-Fluid

22

Blood-Based

78

Male Condoms Distributed

3,600

Noguchi Screening

To commemorate World AIDS Day on December 1, 2025, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, in collaboration with Legon Hospital and GHANET, organised a free health screening at the University of Ghana Night Market. The outreach targeted students and workers, promoting voluntary HIV testing, health education, and overall wellness.

Legon Hospital complemented the initiative with blood pressure and blood sugar screening, syphilis and malaria testing, and blood group identification. Health education and post-test counselling were delivered by qualified professionals, reinforcing the importance of early testing, stigma reduction, and regular health checks within the university community.



Individuals Tested

161

Oral-Fluid

9

Blood-Based

152

Male Condoms Distributed

2,880

Conclusion

Across all activations, GHANET consistently promoted voluntary HIV testing, condom distribution, and comprehensive health education within tertiary institutions. The outreaches strengthened awareness of HIV prevention, reduced stigma, encouraged safer sexual behaviours, and promoted early detection of health conditions.

Through strategic collaborations with student associations, health institutions, and partner organisations, the initiative successfully integrated HIV services with broader health screenings and educational engagements. Overall, the intervention reinforced the importance of youth-centred, accessible health services and demonstrated the impact of sustained campus-based outreach in empowering young people to make informed and responsible health decisions.



Health Screening and Sensitization at Other Social Events

Madina Market (Ghetto Outreach)

The Ministers' Spouses of the Methodist Church Ghana, Northern Accra Diocese, on March 6, 2025, organised an evangelistic outreach at Madina Market and its surrounding areas, including Atiman, under the theme **"Jesus Gives Life in Abundance (Ghetto Outreach)."** In partnership with the Network of Persons Living with HIV (NAP+) and Ghana HIV and AIDS Network (GHANET), the initiative integrated faith-based engagement with health screening services.

The outreach focused on one-on-one evangelism, engaging head porters (Kayayei), loading boys, market women, hawkers, and residents. In addition to HIV testing, blood pressure and blood sugar screenings were conducted, and National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA)

facilitated NHIS registration for uninsured individuals. Health education was strengthened through HIV testimony, and counselling that accentuated adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART), the importance of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in preventing HIV infection. The event concluded with fellowship and refreshments, reflecting a holistic approach that combined spiritual encouragement, health education, and practical community support.

Individuals Tested

196

Oral-Fluid

147

Blood-Based

49

Male Condoms Distributed

720

Obaasima Summit 2025

On July 30, 2025, GHANET participated in the Obaasima Campus Summit held at the University of Media Arts and Communication (UniMAC), integrating HIV education and screening into a women's empowerment platform.

The summit provided a space to address social, cultural, and economic barriers facing young women, while building confidence, leadership skills, and personal development capacity. GHANET delivered targeted HIV education covering transmission, prevention, treatment, and the importance of early testing, while addressing misconceptions and stigma.

The strong uptake of testing and active engagement highlighted the effectiveness of embedding HIV services within empowerment initiatives, reinforcing informed decision-making and preventive behaviours among young women in tertiary institutions.



Individuals Tested

157

Oral-Fluid

43

Blood-Based

114

Male Condoms Distributed

1,800

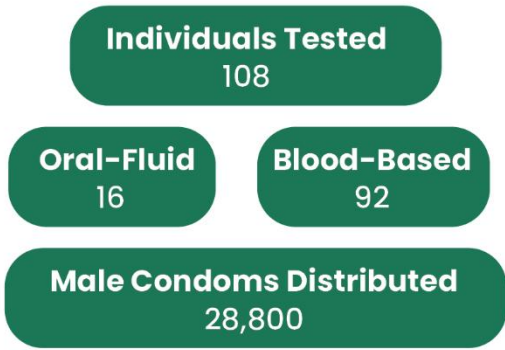
Osu Homowo Duku Walk

On August 23, 2025, GHANET collaborated with Millennium Marathon and Ridge Hospital during the Osu Duku Health Walk as part of Homowo Festival activities. The event blended fitness, culture, and community engagement, creating a dynamic platform for health promotion.

Within this vibrant setting, GHANET provided on-site HIV testing, counselling, and health education, encouraging participants to know their status, adopt safer sexual behaviors, and reduce stigma. The initiative effectively leveraged a cultural and recreational event to promote preventive health practices and broaden access to HIV services.

Beyond GHANET’s HIV sensitization and testing, Millennium Marathon and Ridge Hospital provided malaria screening, blood pressure checks, and testing for hepatitis B, breast and cervical cancer, and blood type.

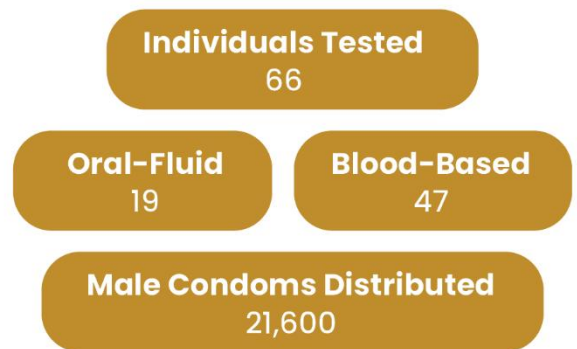
The initiative demonstrated the value of integrating HIV services into cultural events to reach diverse populations in accessible and non-clinical settings.



Alokoto Street Art Festival

On August 30, 2025, GHANET participated in the Alokoto Street Art Festival held at the entrance of the Gbawe Mantse Palace during the climax of the Gbawe Homowo Festival. The outreach formed part of efforts to expand access to voluntary HIV testing and promote safer sexual behaviours within community spaces.

Through on-site education, counselling, and free HIV self-testing services, GHANET engaged festival attendees and community members in discussions on HIV prevention, responsible sexual practices, and the importance of early care and treatment. The initiative demonstrated the value of integrating HIV services into cultural events to reach diverse populations in accessible and non-clinical settings.



Conclusion

These outreach initiatives demonstrate the effectiveness of integrating HIV education, testing, and counselling into diverse community platforms, including faith-based gatherings, tertiary institution programmes, cultural festivals, and recreational events.

By meeting people within their everyday social environments; markets, campuses, and community celebrations; GHANET and its partners were able to expand access to HIV services, reduce stigma, and promote informed health decisions.

The strong community engagement and uptake of services across these activities highlight the value of

collaborative partnerships with faith groups, health institutions, civil society organisations, and cultural stakeholders. Such integrated approaches not only improve awareness and early testing but also strengthen prevention efforts by linking health promotion with empowerment, cultural participation, and social support.

Overall, these initiatives reinforce the importance of community-centred and multi-sectoral strategies in advancing HIV prevention, encouraging responsible health behaviours, and improving access to essential health services among diverse population groups.



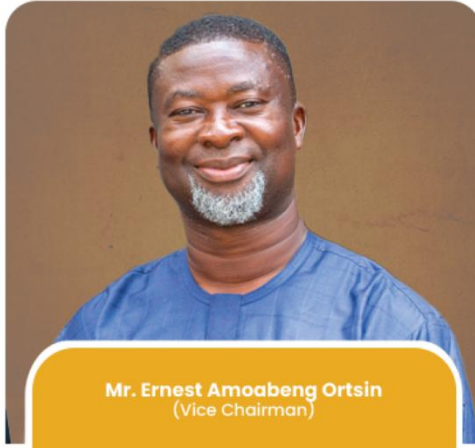


CCM Ghana

Country Coordinating Mechanism
of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria



Mr. Louis Kwame Amo
(Chairman)



Mr. Ernest Amoabeng Ortsin
(Vice Chairman)

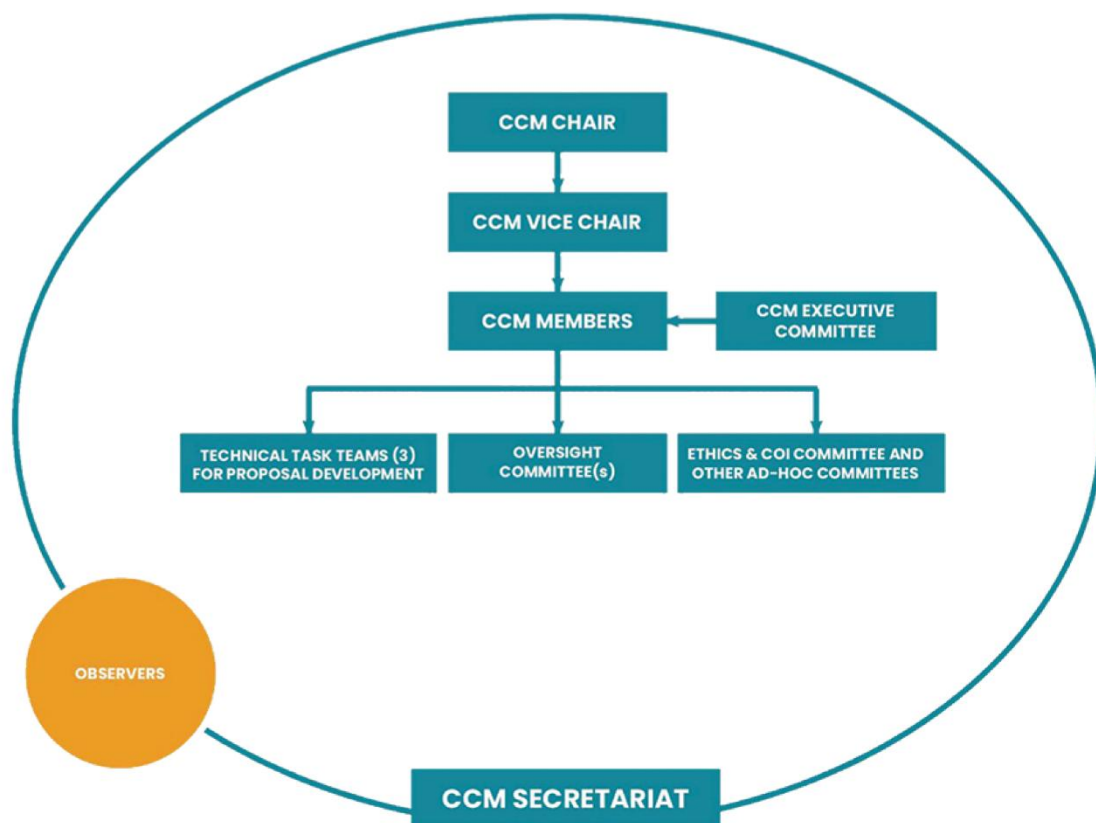


Mr. Samuel Hackman
(Executive Secretary)

The Ghana Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria was established in 2002 with the overall responsibility of managing Global Fund grants in the country. It is responsible for developing grant proposals, setting the policy framework for effective implementation of approved grants, exercising oversight of grants, monitoring progress towards meeting set targets, and reviewing program performance. The CCM also selects Principal Recipients as the lead implementers of approved grants.

On December 4, 2024, Mr. Louis Kwame Amo, Director of External Resource Mobilisation and Economic Relations of the Ministry of Finance was elected Chairman of the CCM and Mr. Ernest Amoabeng Ortsin, President, GHANET, was re-elected Vice Chairman. Mr. Samuel Hackman is the Executive Secretary.

STRUCTURE OF GHANA CCM



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF GHANA CCM

- To create a forum where civil society, the private sector, and development partners in health can interact more equitably with the Government through public-private partnerships.
- To create opportunities for harmonization and alignment of health funds for aid effectiveness.
- To maximize efficiencies through the collective efforts of national stakeholders in the submission of Global Fund proposals.
- To increase transparency and accountability through multi-stakeholder participation in the Global Fund grant implementation.
- To continuously build the capacity of the CCM and its constituencies.

- To establish effective oversight systems and tools for Global Fund grant implementation.

The Ghana CCM comprises representatives from the public and private sectors, including government, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, private businesses, people living with diseases, and multi-lateral or bilateral agencies.

CCM members are elected or nominated depending on the sector they are representing. Additionally, the Ghana CCM has a Secretariat that handles day-to-day operations for CCM members and coordinates their activities, communication and documentation.

Public Sector (8 members)

- 2 - Health Sector (MoH/GHS)
- 1 - Education Sector
- 1 - Ghana AIDS Commission
- 1 - Local Government
- 1 - Gender, Children & Social Protection
- 1 - Finance and Economic Planning
- 1 - CHRAJ

Civil Society (13 members)

- 1 - Private Sector
- 4 - NGOs / Community Based Organizations
- 1 - Professional Associations
- 1 - Faith Based Organizations
- 3 - Persons living with or affected by the disease
- 1 - Key Populations
- 1 - Women and Children Interest Groups
- 1 - Academic and Research Institutions

Multilateral & Bilateral Agencies (4 members)

- 2 - Multilateral Organizations
- 2 - Bilateral Organizations

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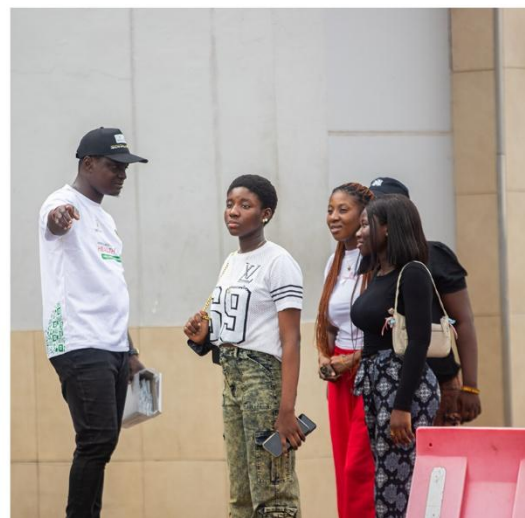
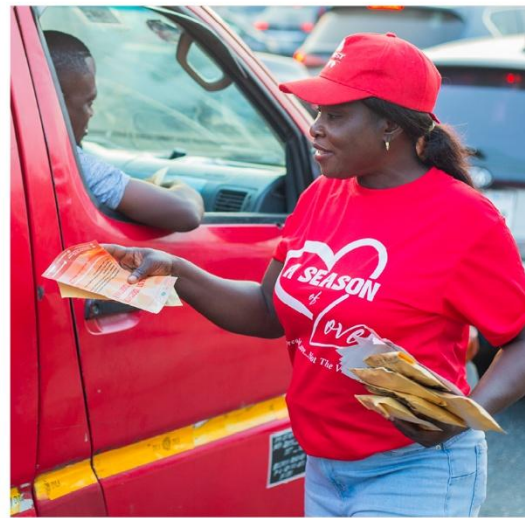
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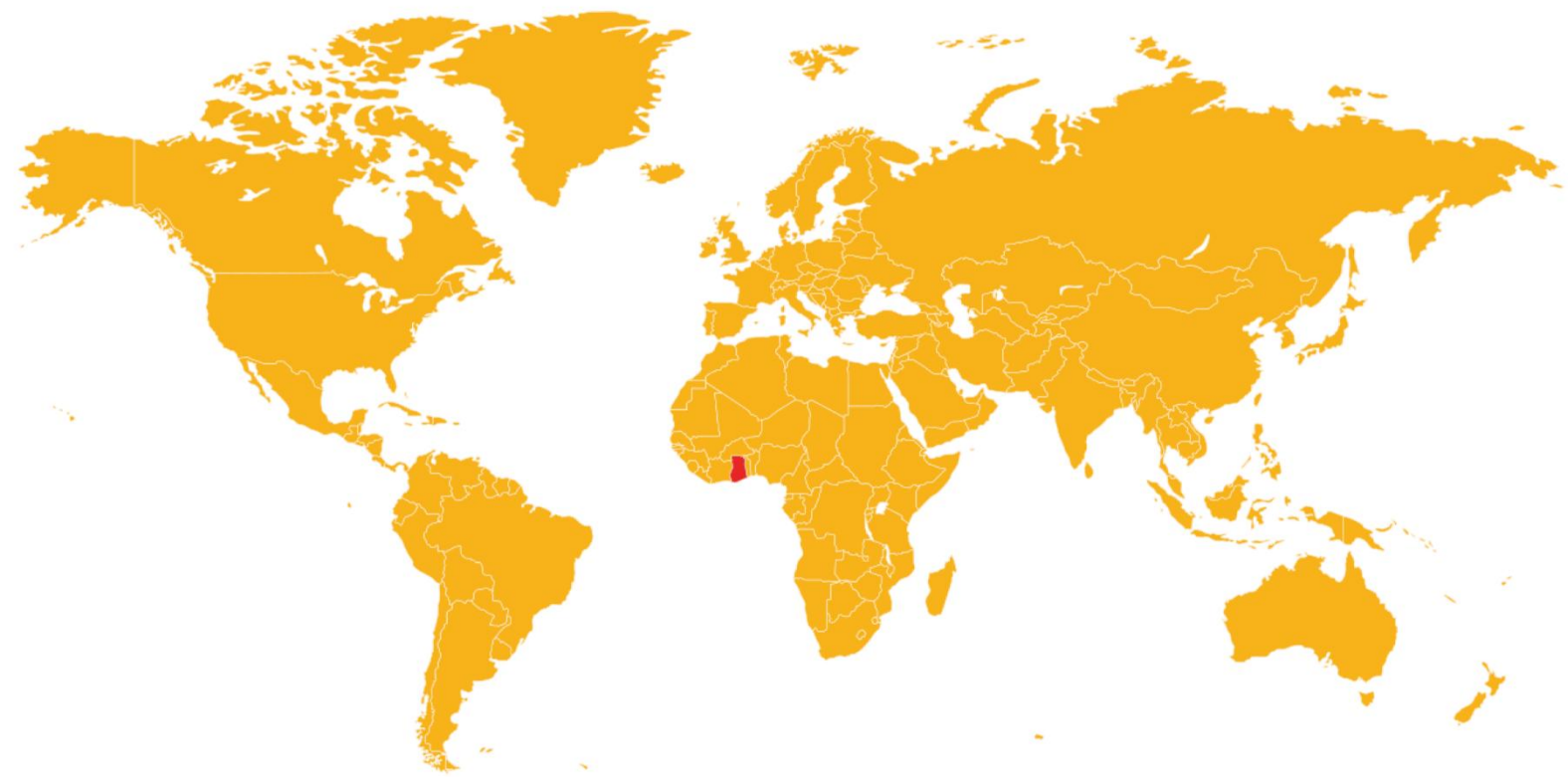
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