

# Newsletter

2022 Quarter 1

## **HIV/AIDS Team Lead, Health, Population, and Nutrition of USAID | Ghana Visits WAAF-IHCC**



On the 2nd of March 2022, WAAF had the opportunity of hosting Heather Robinson, the HIV/AIDS Team Lead, Health, Population, and Nutrition Office of USAID Ghana, as she paid a working visit to the WAAF office. It was such an honor to share our work and experiences with her. Conversations went from information on all our projects. Both past and present to provide more detailed information on

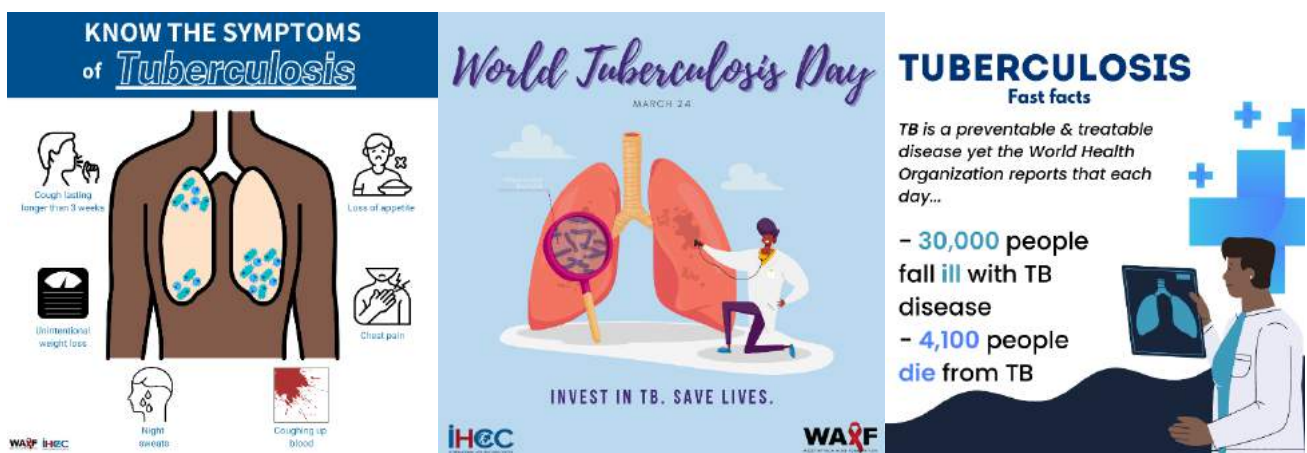
the EpiC Project entitled: MEETING TARGETS AND MAINTAINING EPIDERMIC CONTROL as this is a USAID funded one. On this project, WAAF works with its onsite clinic, the International Health Care Center (IHCC) as well as 2 second-tier organizations WIYO and PORSH. Madam Robinson shared how impressed USAID is with the overall performance of the EpiC which is being implemented in multiple countries. She was equally impressed with WAAF and IHCC's strategy in ensuring services range from prevention through treatment and ultimately viral load suppression. The highlight was the WAAF's mobile clinic which brings health services to people in their communities, and which recently got the approval to initiate ART for persons who test positive. Ms. Robinson's enthusiasm for us and our work has given us the motivation to carry on the fight against HIV as we continue to utilize innovation, always ensuring our clients remain at the center.

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# WAAF & IHCC Celebrate World TB Day

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World TB Day is recognized on the 24th of March each year. This year, the World Health Organization chose the theme, “Invest to End TB. Save Lives.”, which conveys the urgent need to invest resources to ramp up the fight against TB and achieve the commitments to end TB made by global leaders. In the days leading up to World TB Day this year, WAAF and IHCC ran a social media campaign dedicated to raising awareness around Tuberculosis. Graphics were made and posted to our various social media platforms. Examples of which are:



Over the years, WAAF and IHCC have continued to work towards the fight against TB. Various projects and strategies continue to be implemented, and one project named, IMPAACT4CTB, was implemented in 2021. The title of the project was “Increase the knowledge of and demand for TPT among Health Care Workers & PLHIV in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana”. Its main goal of achieving exactly what the title states: **an increase in knowledge** and **an increase in demand for Tuberculosis Preventive Therapy** (TPT) among both Health Care workers (HCWs) in selected ART facilities, as well as among PLHIV receiving services from these facilities. For those not familiar with the term Tuberculosis Preventive Therapy or TPT, this is an intervention where people considered at higher risk of TB disease are given a regimen of TB medicines as prophylaxis to protect them from acquiring active TB infection and therefore TB disease.

During the 6 months of implementation, a total of **12,999** PLHIV received information on TPT delivered at 6 implementing project ART facilities. Majority, 8,465 people, were reached through ART waiting room department discussions/talks, 1,637 were reached through one-on-one interaction and the remaining 517 were reached through talks given at support group meetings. **4,023** were male and **8,976** were female.

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# Featured articles

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## WAAF Recognizes NACP's Efforts in the Fight Against HIV



For over 40 years, the world has continued to fight HIV and although strides have been made, the struggle continues. In Ghana, the National AIDS Control Program has continued to be one of the key leaders in the fight against HIV and WAAF has continued to have a strong working relationship with them. In March, the CEO of WAAF and Medical Director of IHCC, Dr. Naa Ashiley Vanderpuye-Donton paid a courtesy visit to the Programs Manager of the National AIDS Control Program. The meeting was meant to get a firsthand update on the progress being made in the last mile to achieving HIV Epidemic control. To showcase its appreciation, WAAF took the opportunity to deliver a citation that was made in honor of the NACP Program Manager, Dr. Stephen Ayisi Addo for his leadership in the fight against HIV. This citation had been presented to him last year at the WAAF's Care for Care Givers

Soiree organized to celebrate our health workers and stakeholders with whom WAAF and IHCC had worked as well as continued to work with over the years. The citation was received with grace.

## WAAF Makes a Courtesy Call to the Director General of the Ghana AIDS Commission

As part of WAAF's visit to key players in the fight against HIV, the Chief Executive Officer for WAAF and Medical Director for IHCC paid a working visit to the Director-General of the Ghana AIDS Commission Dr. Kyeremeh Atuahene. WAAF briefly shared updates on what WAAF and IHCC have been working on lately. Talks went around anti-stigma, and the need to replace the Heart-to-Heart Campaign with some new ideas It went on to the rebuilding of NAP+ to build their capacity to enable them to undertake and implement projects.



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# Featured articles

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## WAAF Holds Refresher Training For NFM III Peer Educators

Between 21st to 23rd of March WAAF organized a 3-day refresher training for all 37 Peer Educators from across VIII project districts on the WAPCAS Global Fund NFM III Project. The training was facilitated by the Project Coordinator, M&E Officer, and Field Officer for Agona West Municipal. The training was officially opened by the WAPCAS Global Fund WAAF NFM III team lead. Peer educators were taught about their role and responsibility as peer educators. They were educated on basic facts about HIV and AIDS, Oral PrEP with emphasis on the difference and similarities between Oral PrEP, PEP and ARVs, ED- PrEP (Event-driven PrEP), risk assessment and reduction, and the importance of social media, safety, and security. The peer educators experienced presentations on HIVST (HIV self-testing), Covid -19, PSEAH. The peer educators were equipped with all the necessary tools to effectively prevent its occurrence and management of cases.



## CLM Stakeholders Engagement

On the 31st of March WAAF brought together all its stakeholders on UNAIDS WAAF Led CLM project to share their findings on the project so far. An implementation that was initially to happen within a very limited time got a one-month no-cost extension. Implementation took place in three Districts in the Volta region namely, North Tongu, Ketu South, and Ho Municipality covering 11 facilities. PLHIV and KP-LHIV were interviewed by their peers to determine their accessibility to viral load services in the various facilities in which they receive care. It was a successful meeting which was well attended by all the community monitors from NAP+ and AfED, Nurses from the various health facilities as well as the volta regional HIV Coordinator. It was in all, a successful event.

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## Care Continuum: Social Groups Engagement

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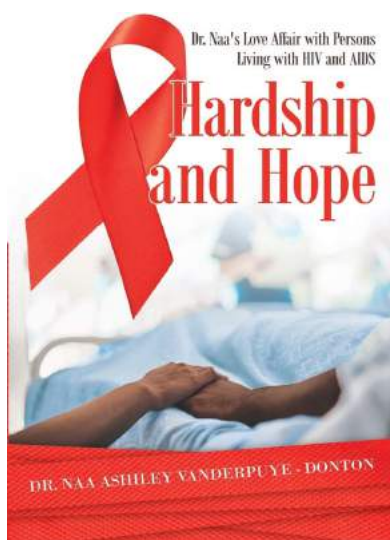


Between the 22nd to 24th of March, WAAF in collaboration with JSI organized a 3-day engagement meeting with Queen mothers, Assemblymen, Faith-Based Organizations, Muslim leaders, Youth leaders, Spot owners, Football Groups, Galamseyers, Keke Drivers Association, GPRTU leaders, Fishermen Association, and Market leaders. The meeting was organized to engage participants in community sensitization and HIV Testing Services. There was an average of 30 participants. Participants were taken through the project objectives and goal, differentiated HIV testing services, linkage to treatment, and human rights & protection (GBV).

The WAAF team will therefore be involved in their activity plans to provide HIV education and HTS. The social groups will also serve as community actors to help in community sensitization and referrals.

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### Excerpts from Dr. Naa's Hardship and Hope



"The first of four daughters to a Ghanaian agricultural and animal husbandry worker and a Dutch homemaker, I knew from the age of two that I wanted to be a doctor. I wanted to fulfill my genuine desire for helping those in need of care. I had learned from experience that one does not have to have everything to be happy, but that good health and access to quality care are necessary to enjoying life to the fullest.

...We lived modestly but contentedly, in a home without basic comforts like running water or a constant supply of electricity. I grew up like many other Ghanaian children, fetching water and balancing it on my head for the walk home."





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