

2023 QUARTER 3 NEWSLETTER

The PEPFAR/USAID funded EpiC Project - PrEP & HIVST pilot project closes out.

This event was a project close out meeting to review achievements, lessons learned, challenges, and recommendations from the implementation of the PEPFAR/USAID funded, FHI360 managed EpiC Project implemented by WAAF and IHCC. The meeting brought together stakeholders such as the NACP, WAPCAS, EQUIP Health-Ghana, GAC,



UNAIDS, WHO, amongst others. Key project achievements were discussed and these included the use of online options for health education, referrals and linkage to care, community-based initiatives such as mobile PrEP initiation services that successfully offered services to eligible individuals, showcasing innovation in HIV prevention efforts. HIV Self Testing, HIVST, the second component of the project, also saw great achievements with more individuals not only testing for HIV to know their HIV status but also following through with linkage to care. Realizing the need to reach out to most at high-risk for HIV groups, the project made efforts to reach groups such as the transgender community and engaging with them to enhance their health seeking behaviour by understanding their specific health needs and concerns and together addressing these. The project also allowed for lessons learned around dispelling misconceptions and reducing stigma for better health outcomes. Project volunteers' engagement, institutionalizing of PrEP champions and the establishment of mobile clinics, all had a direct impact on increasing the reach of PrEP and HIVST services to the public, and promoting PrEP normalization. The projects' achievements reflect a broader societal change in awareness and acceptance of HIV prevention methods. Availability of PrEP has instilled hope among key populations, fostering optimism and confidence in the face of HIV/AIDS.

Board of Directors Spotlight

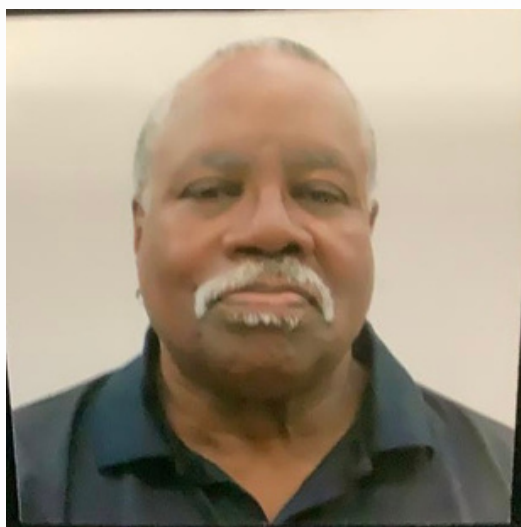
Mr. Reginald L. Smith – Member

Mr. Smith is the Executive Director and Founder of The Reginald & Dionne Smith Foundation, a non-profit providing for the wellness, awareness, and restoration of Black people with and highly impacted by HIV, viral hepatitis, and/or substance use disorders, particularly in rural and Southern communities in the United States. He is also an author and a Certified Holistic Health Practitioner, radio/tv personality and a passionate, informed advocate for living well with HIV. Mr. Smith has produced multimedia content, and spoken to audiences of all sizes, at places like the U.S. Conference on AIDS, Georgia State University, various HBCU's, many local, national, and international health service organizations and churches, as well as to individuals on topics around living with and treating HIV, worldwide.



Board of Directors Spotlight Cont'd

Luther C. Brock, Sr – Member



Luther C. Brock, Sr. has extensive professional expertise developed over 32+ years through his work nationally and internationally with communities hardest hit by HIV/AIDS and HCV. He is well known among his professional colleagues and the communities he has served for his extensive knowledge in the effective use of cross-cultural education and outreach strategies to communities at greatest risk of potentially life-threatening viruses. Since 2007, Mr. Brock has worked as a consultant on HCV and HIV/AIDS projects in the San Francisco Bay Area and Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Brock is a co-founding member of Free at Last, an alcohol/drug treatment agency in East Palo Alto, California which, at one time had the largest population of HIV positive African American men east of Mississippi. Mr. Brock continues to serve as a volunteer for national and international community education programs and advocacy groups and serves as consultant to numerous pharmaceutical companies providing his insights on the establishment of HIV/HCV treatment programs needed around the world.

WAAF Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EPIC) Project Review Meeting with Subs Recipients

WAAF and its onsite clinic, the International Health Care Centre have for three years, implemented the Meeting targets and maintaining Epidemic Control (EpIC) Project with funding from USAID/PEPFAR and managed by FHI 360 Ghana. WAAF worked with PORSH and WIYO as sub recipients on this project. The project came to an end in September 2023 and as part of the



closeout activities, WAAF held a final review meeting which has representatives of the sub-recipient organizations who worked on the project with WAAF and IHCC. This review meeting highlighted the journey of the EPIC project and its response to community demands. It also brought to light all the strategies that were used by WAAF and partners to reach project beneficiaries with HIV Self Testing and PrEP services as well as retaining them on PrEP. The use of the Mobile Clinic van services for the distribution of HIV self-test kits, and delivery of PrEP medications to the doorsteps of project beneficiaries ensured adherence and adequate and timely follow-up on PrEP for continuation purposes. The meeting also touched on the use of social media networks and channels to reach members of the key population to educate and inform them about the availability of PrEP and its benefits. The security of project staff during trips and refill events was discussed and addressed. Refresher education was also provided on intimate partner violence and how to handle such issues when they come up. WAAF then highlighted key activities from the years of implementation and awarded all well-performing volunteers who worked on the project. It was a highly successful event.

Global Fund NFM III Annual Review Meeting

Every year the Global Fund New Funding Module Project implemented by WAAF through WAPCAS holds a review meeting with all field officers across the five offices in the Central region to assess their individual and collective performance on the project. In our third year of implementation, our Annual Review Meeting was an event to discuss various departments' program challenges and achievements. This meeting effectively evaluates the need for support and ways to improve our project implementation based on the challenges encountered during the year. This year's review meeting took place in September 2023 in Accra. This was a holistic meeting as it had the WAAF-NFM 3 team as well as the Human Resource and administrative staff.



It also had project coordinators of other projects being implemented by WAAF to enable and encourage cross-learning. There were series of presentations and discussions regarding implementation of the project like challenges and progress for further improvement and support. The comprehensive review meeting highlighted substantial progress across various projects, including scaling up HIV care, addressing human rights, and promoting community engagement. Challenges related to legislative issues, resource limitations, and an anti-LGBT+ bill were identified and addressed. WAAF's commitment to accurate financial management, employee well-being, and effective communication was evident throughout the presentations. Key lessons learned emphasized the importance of transparent communication, holistic support, and building strong field teams to achieve and surpass set targets. Some of the challenges addressed were resource limitations and the anti-LGBT+ bill. However, the meeting highlighted substantial progress across various projects including HIV care, addressing human rights, and promoting community engagement. We hold our commitments to accurate financial management, employee well-being, and effective communication strongly as we continue to implement projects in the future.

H&M Donation of Beds

The marketing and communications team at WAAF and IHCC together with the Medical Director paid a courtesy call to the management of H&M office located on the Spintex road in Accra earlier in 2023. H&M Timber and Hardware Company Limited is a longstanding partner at the WAAF clinic in Haatso, the IHCC, which serves as one of their primary medical care facility.

During the visit, the team put a request before the H&M management to, as part of their corporate social responsibility, support the clinic with clinic beds to revamp the detention unit. True to their word, H&M, donated 2 clinic beds to IHCC which has gone a long way to ensure clients who need to be kept at the clinic for observational purposes can enjoy very comfortable beds.



H&M, in addition to their donation, contacted Ashfoam West Hills Mall branch to donate two mattresses to adequately complete the beds for the clinic's use and as of today, the beds have not only increased IHCC's capacity to detain more clients at the same time but have also ensured clients detained remain comfortable as they receive care. This is an appreciation post to H&M and Ashfoam West Hills Mall branch for supporting WAAF and IHCC in this regard. We thank you on behalf of our clients and staff.

Data Quality Training Assessment

In August 2023, the auditor of FHI 360, one of WAAF's project management partners, led a Data Quality Assessment training for the staff of the WAAF-EpiC project team. Data Quality Assessments (DQA) focuses on identifying and correcting any discrepancies in data collected. It is how data is converted into a common format, so information can be archived, and when the data is reconciled before it is archived, the information provides accurate history for previous years when necessary. DQA is significant to the extent that it meets an organization's expectations of accuracy, timeliness, consistency, and validity. Implementing a DQA strategy also helps safeguard the organization's value of data. The auditor showed the team how DQA is systematically done. Some of the areas tackled were, Human Resources and Capacity Management, M&E plan and standard operation management, Data collection, M&E system assessment and budget, Data analytics & feedback, Data safety & security, and others. The training was a resounding success.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign - Education at Savelugu Yoo R/C Junior High School

With support from the Ghana Health Service, WAAF organized an HIV & AIDS Education exercise on the 28th of July 2023 in Savelugu Yoo R/C Junior High School with the involvement of teachers, non-teachers, and school market women. Education sessions were broken down into seven sections involving information on transmission, symptoms, and prevention of HIV, the role of society toward people living with HIV, and a demonstration of the correct use of the male condom. During the exercise, it was stressed that new infections among the youth (15-25 years) were on the rise, which stressed the importance of testing, treatment, and safe sex practices.



Photo Gallery



HIV/AIDS Education Exercise

H&M Donation of Beds



USAID EpiC Project Closeout



GET INTOUCH WITH WAAF & IHCC

WAAF and IHCC enjoy servicing the people of Ghana; we continue to ensure our services are available to all and that absolutely no one is left behind. We also enjoy sharing our experiences as we continue our journey in the areas of health in Ghana focusing on HIV and TB. You can reach us and keep in touch with us via any of the under-listed contact details. We look forward to an exciting year in 2021 and you can follow our work on these same platforms.

PHYSICAL OFFICE ADDRESSES

WAAF Headquarters, Greater

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Opposite Benab Oil filling station. The closest station is Haatso Station.
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Please direct general inquiries to: info@waafweb.org

WAAF Western Regional Office

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Contact number: 0249354576/ 0245021821/ 0243362447
Email: info@waafweb.org

WAAF Essiama Office

Essiama on top of the Ecobank Building opposite Dukes filling Station
GPS Address: WE-0206-7313
Contact number: 0553964934/ 0249354576/ 0243362447
Email: info@waafweb.org

WAAF, Northern Regional Office

Address: Savelugu Municipal Health Directorate
Contact Number: 0243675303/ 0243362447
Email: info@waafweb.org

WAAF Central Regional Offices

- Kasoa Nyanyayo Road near Teacher's quarters
- Winneba – Apam Road Opp. Dukes Filling Station
- Cape Coast – Akyeano Near Cherubim and Searphim School
- Assin Fosu Town Around Melcom
- Dunkwa Field Office, Dunkwa Atechem Boass road



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