



WELCOME TO OUR

2024 Quarter 3 Newsletter

Featured Articles

- Addressing Barriers and Enhancing Support for Transgender Individuals
- Breast Cancer awareness at WAAF IHCC
- Scaling Up HIV Care and Addressing Human Rights Barriers in Ghana
- Building Safer Communities: WAAF's Progress in Protecting Vulnerable Populations.
- Promoting Health Through Active TB Case Finding in the Western Region
- Promoting Health Through Active TB Case Finding in the Western Region



Read more

TG Health Needs Assessment Project: Addressing Barriers and Enhancing Support for Transgender Individuals



The West Africa AIDS Foundation (WAAF), with support from UNAIDS, recently conducted a TG health needs Assessment study in the Greater Accra region to explore the unique challenges faced by transgender (TG) individuals, particularly in accessing healthcare and social services. This study aimed to provide a deeper understanding of the barriers TG people encounter, especially in the context of HIV/AIDS.

Key findings highlighted significant gaps in healthcare access, including a lack of TG friendly services, insufficient knowledge among healthcare providers around the specific needs of the population, and pervasive stigma and discrimination. These challenges not only hinder access to necessary care but also contribute to the higher prevalence of HIV among TG individuals. The study underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions, including training and sensitization programs for healthcare providers, the development of strong TG-led community networks, and advocacy for policies that ensure equal access to healthcare for TG individuals. By addressing these issues, WAAF hopes to improve health outcomes and reduce stigma for TG individuals in Ghana.

Breast Cancer awareness at WAAF IHCC



It is extremely relevant for health workers to stay up-to-date in all health related issues and trends, hence October being the breast cancer awareness month, the management of WAAF-IHCC took the initiative to conduct a refresher training for IHCC health workers on breast cancer.

This was held on the 2nd of October led by Dr. Vera Oyata, WAAF-IHCC's Technical Advisor, Clinical Care. The session covered types of breast cancer, preventive methods, including self-examinations, professional screenings and treatment options. As October is the breast cancer awareness month, it is important that women from age 20 and above should be educated and advised on how to detect and prevent breast cancer. All staff welcomed this health talk and got their many questions answered by Dr. Vera Oyata.

Scaling Up HIV Care and Addressing Human Rights Barriers in Ghana



In the third quarter of 2024, the West Africa AIDS Foundation (WAAF) made notable strides in HIV prevention, care, and human rights as part of the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 Project titled "Scaling up Quality HIV Care Cascade through Community Engagement and Addressing Human Rights Barriers." The project continued to focus on achieving the 95-95-95 HIV targets across 12 districts in the Ashanti, Bono, and Bono East regions. Key activities included outreach activities by 42 volunteers and 4 TG liaisons, who reached 7,122 male and 119 female vulnerable populations, distributing over 188,000 condoms and 13,440 lubricants for males, and 6,542 condoms and 510 lubricants for females. A total of 3,532 males and 60 females received an HIV test with 89 individuals testing positive, with positivity yields of 2.5% for males and 2% for females. ART initiation rates were 98% for males and 100% for females, with 87 individuals enrolled on treatment. To tackle human rights issues, 22 community paralegals educated vulnerable populations on human rights and stigma, addressing 9 abuse cases in collaboration with legal bodies. Additionally, 291 individuals were supported to enrol onto the National Health Insurance scheme to improve healthcare access. Community dialogues addressed safety concerns, including discussions around the Anti LGBTQ+ Bill, whilst monitoring visits ensured data quality and technical support. WAAF remains committed to scaling up HIV interventions and addressing human rights barriers to care in its project areas

Building Safer Communities: WAAF's Progress in Protecting Vulnerable Populations.



In FY25 Q1, the West Africa AIDS Foundation (WAAF) made remarkable progress in improving healthcare for people living with HIV (PLHIV), key populations (KPs), and tuberculosis (TB) patients through the Community-Led Monitoring (CLM) project, managed by SEND Ghana and funded by PEPFAR / USAID. The initiative empowers vulnerable groups to advocate for their health rights, monitor service delivery, and foster accountability in healthcare. Key achievements include the strengthening of District Monitoring Committees (DMCs), the recruitment and training of new members, and enhanced collaboration between communities and healthcare providers. WAAF conducted capacity-building sessions, organized focus group discussions, and equipped DMC members with data collection skills, enabling them to identify service gaps and propose solutions. These efforts raised awareness among PLHIV, KPs, and TB patients about their health rights and improved dialogue with healthcare providers. By promoting accountability and reducing stigma, the CLM project is paving the way for a more inclusive, supportive healthcare system. WAAF, together with partners like SEND Ghana and USAID, are driving lasting change in HIV care, ensuring no one is left behind in the fight for quality healthcare.

Empowering Communities for Better Healthcare: WAAF's Milestones in Advocacy and Accountability through the Community-Led Monitoring Project



In FY24, the West Africa AIDS Foundation (WAAF) made remarkable progress in improving healthcare for people living with HIV (PLHIV), key populations (KPs), and people living with tuberculosis (PLW- TB) through the Community-Led Monitoring (CLM) project, supported by SEND Ghana and USAID. This initiative empowers vulnerable groups to advocate for their health rights and monitor healthcare services, key achievements including strengthening District committees (DMC's), recruiting and training new members, enhancing collaboration between communities and healthcare providers and conducting capacity-building sessions. WAAF also organized focus group discussions and provided DMC members with data to support their advocacy efforts and promoting accountability in the healthcare system. This has improved positive outcomes of community-led monitoring (CLM) project in improving healthcare access for people living with HIV (PLHIV), key populations (KP's) and tuberculosis (TB) patients. The project has raised awareness about health rights, fostered better communication between healthcare providers and promoted accountability. Through these efforts, stigma surrounding these groups has been reduced, contributing to more inclusive and supportive healthcare system. The collaboration between WAAF, SEND Ghana and USAID is facilitating lasting improvement in HIV care and ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare for everyone.

Promoting Health Through Active TB Case Finding in the Western Region



Tuberculosis (TB) remains a significant public health challenge, particularly in high-burden regions. WAAF is committed to improving community health, and has intensified efforts to enhance active TB case-finding initiatives in the Sekondi-Takoradi metropolis (STMA) of the Western Region. This proactive approach focused on identifying individuals with TB symptoms, especially in urban slum communities. By conducting door-to-door screenings, community outreach programs and collaborating with local health facilities, WAAF aims to bridge gaps in TB diagnosis and treatment. These activities prioritize early detection, ensuring that those affected receive timely care, thereby reducing the risk of transmission within families and communities. Key to the success of this initiative is WAAF's partnership with community leaders and community volunteers, who help demystify TB and encourage affected individuals to seek help. Educational campaigns go together with screenings, equipping people with the knowledge to recognize symptoms and dispel myths that perpetuate stigma. Through these efforts, WAAF's active case-finding initiative has identified 15 TB clients, of which 13 were linked to treatment, contributing to the fight against TB in the Western Region. As we continue this work, we remain committed to creating a healthier future for all.

GET IN TOUCH WITH WAAF & IHCC

WAAF and IHCC enjoy servicing the people of Ghana; we continue to ensure our services are available to all and that absolutely no one is left behind. We also enjoy sharing our experiences as we continue our journey in the areas of health in Ghana focusing on HIV, TB and all associated conditions. 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 2024 and you can follow our work on these same platforms.

PHYSICAL OFFICE ADDRESSES

WAAF HEADQUARTERS, GREATER ACCRA

Address: Plot 650 Ecomog Road, Haatso, Greater Accra.
Opposite Benab Oil filling station. The closest station is Haatso Station.
Contact Numbers: +233 302 545 054 | +233 243 362 447
Please direct general inquiries to: info@waafweb.org

WAAF WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

WAAF Takoradi Office GI18,
Adjoa Ghartey Street Near Mexico Hotel
GPS Address: WS-201-7442
Contact number: 0249354576/ 0245021821/ 0243362447
Email: info@waafweb.org

WAAF ESSIAMA OFFICE

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

WAAF NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

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

WAAF Ashanti, Bono and Bono East Offices

- KMA/Atwima Kwamwoma - Plot No. E7, Daban Pennii, Kumasi Daban
- Techiman – TF5564, Diasempa
- Sunyani – New Dormaa Extension Pastoral Road Plot No. 188 Ethiopia Junction
- Obuasi Municipality Community Nyameso 044 Manganese PTH House N0. Ac-116-7735
- Bonsu - Beside Kpogas Furnitures- Tech Traffic Light



@WAAFghana



@WAAF-IHCC



@West Africa AIDS Foundation
(WAAF)



@waafihcc