



1961–2011

Ghana - Fact Sheet – HIV and AIDS Initiative

History and Background

Since 2001, Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) who serve in Ghana have contributed to the national response to HIV and AIDS by building the capacity of community members to adopt healthy behaviors and practices to stay free from infection. PCVs have also promoted care and support activities for Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV). These prevention and care interventions target isolated, remote and hard-to-reach populations throughout Ghana.

More than 160 PCVs and their Ghanaian counterparts have designed and implemented grassroots outreach and training activities for Ghana's general population and, in some cases, most-at-risk-population, including Female Sex Workers.

Integration of HIV into program sectors

Currently, PCVs in Ghana strive to integrate community-initiated HIV and AIDS interventions into each of our four major primary assignment areas:

Education Program Sector

- Life skills and HIV prevention education for in and out-of-school youth;
- Institute HIV peer education programs in schools;
- Form HIV/Health and drama Clubs
- Camp GLOW;
- Sensitize of teachers and parents on HIV;
- Integrate HIV into class subjects.

Culturally appropriate HIV Behavior Change Communication (BCC) strategies are adopted in the implementation of these interventions.

Environment Program Sector

Peace Corps/Ghana's HIV interventions in this program sector target persons infected and affected by HIV.

- Training in community-based agriculture/permagarden techniques to grow nutritional and immune-booster plants;
- Promote better nutrition practices;
- Construct water conservation and food storage units;
- Delivery of sessions on HIV prevention and positive living with HIV during environmental group meetings.

Small Enterprise Development

- Train and develop income-generation activities for women, as well as PLHIV Support Groups;
- Training in business management and financial literacy skills;
- Savings and loans for girls and women;
- Financial management training for accounting staff at local organizations involved in HIV activities;
- Training programs in monitoring, evaluation and reporting for staff of AIDS-service organizations;
- Food processing and storage training for PLHIV Support Groups.

Health/Water and Sanitation

- Organize training in stigma reduction for service providers at local health centers;
- Conduct community outreach to sensitize and raise awareness about HIV and AIDS, and available services
- Train caregivers of PLHIV, as well as 'Positive Living' training for PLHIV;
- Distribution and promotion of condom use;
- Mobilize community members for voluntary testing and counseling services;
- Link HIV positive persons to health centers;
- Community-level stigma reduction campaigns;
- Establish and train peer education groups that works with and teaches community members about safer sex practices or referrals to clinics for STIs
- Wraparound activities that promote the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (e.g. promote adherence to anti-retroviral drugs);
- Reproduction of HIV and BCC materials;
- Support the strengthening of institutional capacity in the areas of data collection and analysis, communication, financial and database management, outreach to target populations, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Our cross-sector approach, coupled with the intense cross-cultural training that PCVs receive enables them to work as an effective grassroots component of Ghana's HIV and AIDS response strategy.

President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

With PEPFAR support, PCVs have successfully launched innovative HIV and AIDS awareness projects. For example, our volunteers have worked with the highly vulnerable population group of 'kayayer' or head porter girls. These girls are susceptible to high risk behaviors as they leave their rural communities in search of greener pastures in urban centers. You may view the 'kayayer' multimedia outreach project online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUm9sEjfq7E



For more information on Peace Corps' HIV/AIDS Initiative, contact Daniel Omane at domane@gh.peacecorps.gov