

- Knowledge sharing

## Ghana - Fact Sheet – Health/Water and Sanitation Project

### History and Background

The Health/Water and Sanitation (HWS) sector started in 1978 as a critical component of Peace Corps Ghana's 'Basic Human Needs' initiative. The Project has evolved significantly since the initial handful of HWS Volunteers provided child health care, diet and nutrition education at Salvation Army clinics in the Ashanti and Eastern Regions.

Since that time, more than 400 HWS Volunteers have served to increase general health awareness and practices and reduce disease prevalence in all 10 regions of Ghana. At various times, the program's focus has shifted from latrine construction (1992) to hygiene education (1996) to HIV/AIDS education (2001) to guinea worm prevention (2005).

Currently, more than 25 HWS Volunteers work and live in communities throughout Ghana

### Mission Objectives

HWS Volunteers' mission is to:

*Support the efforts of Ghana to assist communities to improve upon their health and well being through the promotion of family/ reproductive health and disease prevention.*

To support this mission, Health/WATSAN Volunteers and their counterparts work in three main areas:

- Health awareness,
  - Hygiene
  - Nutrition
  - Reproductive Health
  - Malaria and other infectious diseases
  - School Health Education Program
- Water management and promotion of hygiene and sanitation
  - Water and sanitation committee development
  - Sanitation facilities construction
  - House-hold level technologies promotion
  - Community participation in problem identification and solutions
  - Community mobilization

- HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention:
  - Awareness creation
  - Prevention programs
  - Voluntary Counseling and Testing promotion
  - Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Promotion
  - Anti-stigma programs
  - Care and support for People Living with HIV

### Partners in Health and Water

Peace Corps' major partners in the HWS Program are the Government of Ghana and the Ghana Health Service. Peace Corps also works with several other organizations to ensure that volunteer efforts are collaborative and reflect the needs and development priorities of Ghana:

- District Health Management Teams
- Ghana Education Service
- Community Water and Sanitation Agency
- Carter Center
- UNICEF
- USAID/Ghana
- Integrated Tamale Fruit Company

### Secondary Activities

Health/WATSAN Volunteers also conduct secondary activities in addition to their primary assignments such as environmental conservation, small business development, and teaching. In all of their activities, Volunteers integrate strategies that address gender and youth development and food security.



For more information about the Health/Water and Sanitation project, contact: [jaddipa@gh.peacecorps.gov](mailto:jaddipa@gh.peacecorps.gov)