

# **GAVI/CRS - Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) Project**

## **Project Final Report**

<b>Project Name:</b>	GAVI/CRS Health System Strengthening Project
<b>Organization:</b>	PEACE FOR LIFE GHANA(PLG)
<b>Project District:</b>	WEST MAMPRUSI DISTRICT N/R
<b>Project Period:</b>	MAY 2017 to DECEMBER 2017
<b>Communities</b>	ZANGUM,NAYOKU,NABARI,SILINGA

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**SUBMITTED**

**TO**

**GHANA COALITION OF NGOs IN HEALTH (GCNH)**

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# 1 PROJECT FINAL REPORT PURPOSE AND GOALS

This report covers activities implemented from the first to last quarter (June-December, 2017) of the project period. It describes achievements made as well as challenges experienced and recommendations for addressing such challenges. This Report is therefore compiled to accomplish the following goals:

- Review and validate the milestones and success of the project.
- Identify project highlights and best practices for future projects.
- Give an account of activities carried out during project implementation.

## REPORT SUMMARY

### 1.1 Project Background Overview

The Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health (GCNH) secured a project grant from the GAVI – Health Systems Strengthening funding window. The grant was to be used to support community mobilization efforts to increase immunization coverage in 40 selected Districts in Ghana where immunization coverage is relatively low. The Coalition sub-granted part of the funds to some of its member organizations who have demonstrable capacity, relevant experience and competencies to implement small scale and result based activities that will complement the efforts of the Ghana Health Service to achieve higher immunization coverage in the targeted districts. The goal of the project was to increase immunization coverage to 90% in the targeted districts including west mamprusi in the northern region of Ghana. The project also seeks to empower civil society for increased demand for health services at the community level. It was also expected to enhance collaboration among various partners for effective health service delivery at the community level. The project also aim at strengthening governance and health information management for improved health service delivery and to address issues pertaining to improving data quality to enhance evidence-based decision making, effective resource allocation and management. To this end, Peace for Life Ghana (PLG) was tasked to implement the project in four communities in the west mamprusi district.

## 1.2 Project Highlights and Best Practices

### Project Highlights:

- Sensitization of community leaders and men on importance of immunization and the need to support their families. This was done in four project communities namely Zangum, Nayoku, Silinga and Nabari. This was done through mini forums.
- The District Assembly, DHMT, Women's Groups and Traditional Leaders were partnered to identify and select satellite points in the four project communities for project implementation.
- Logistical Support was provided to Satellite Sites for effective functioning of the centers. These included plastic chairs and benches etc.
- quarterly community outreach activities was carried out in all four project communities to educate people on the importance of immunization and the need to support immunization activities in the communities.

### Best Practices:

- One of the best practices exhibited is the strict adherence to the project implementation plan. This includes meeting the right people at the right place and time and addressing the right subject and issues. As a result, the people developed the feeling of ownership of the project. We also used the right community entry approach and that has given the project the kind of attention and support we expected.
- The team identified a woman who had all her six children fully immunized. She was given the platform to educate her fellow women specifically on the economic benefit of immunization.

## **PROJECT PERFORMANCE**

### **1.3 Goals and Objectives Performance**

The project performance compared to the project goal and objective was satisfactory as all deliverables were executed per the project plan and budget lines. This can be determined from some means of verifications such as receipts, photos, minutes, audio recordings, attendance sheets and financial reports which were submitted in the first three quarterly reports.

### **1.4 Milestone and Deliverables Performance**



In order to achieve the overall goal of the project, the following activities were outlined:

1. Sensitize community leaders and men on importance of immunization and to support their families
2. Partner District Assemblies, DHMTs, Women's Groups and Traditional Leaders to identify and select satellite points implementation
3. Provide Logistical Support to Satellite Sites.
4. Provide resources to Support Volunteers' activities at satellites sites and community levels.
5. CSOs to participate in Regional and DHMT quarterly and annual review meetings.
6. Support CSO to participate in NIDs and other immunization campaigns.
7. Contract retired/private midwives and private community health nurses to support project implementation.
8. Provide logistical support to trained retired/private midwives and private community health nurses to support project implementation.
9. Engage in quarterly community durbars, advocacy activities.
10. To carry out quarterly community outreach activities.

### **Achievements/Project results:**

- The first important activity was a meeting held with the district director of health services for West Mamprusi at the district health directorate in Walewale. The purpose of the meeting which was held on the 1st of June 2017 was to introduce the project to the director and her team and to discuss the content of the detail implementation plan. It was also to seek the support and corporation of the health directorate in the successful implementation of the project and to identify project communities. The director welcomed the intervention and pledged the support of her office. She revealed that the district targeted 90% immunization coverage in 2016 but was able to attain between 70 to 75% coverage. She therefore expressed hope that the CRS/GAVI HSS immunization project will help the Ghana Health Service to achieve it target in 2017. Present at the meeting was the disease control officer of the district, director of Peace for Life Ghana and two other staff members. Results achieved from this activity are the identification of project communities where immunization coverage is very low. Another benefit achieved from this activity was the identification of a community health nurse who assist in the project implementation.
- Four satellite centers were identified and established for project implementation in the four project communities. This was done through meetings which were held between community members(traditional authorities, women groups), project team including staff of GHS.
- One community health nurse and four community volunteers were contracted to help in the project implementation. The process was facilitated by the district health directorate and community members.
- The next planned activity which was carried out was the sensitization of community leaders and men on the importance of immunization. The activity was successfully carried out in June 2017 all the four project communities. Forums were held in all communities where staff of Peace for Life Ghana and Ghana Health Service took turns to drum home the need for men to support their families to access immunization. They were educated on the various child related diseases and the implications of failing to immunize a child against them. Opportunity was given to participants to ask questions that boarder on child health in general. Participants expressed their gratitude to GAVI/CRS for making such intervention possible in their respective communities and also pledged their support to ensure the success of the project which they are the direct beneficiaries. The assemblymen on behalf of their communities thanked Peace for Life Ghana for selecting their communities to benefit from such interventions and requested that more of such projects are needed to enhance the socioeconomic wellbeing of the rural dwellers. A total number of two hundred men were sensitized on the importance of immunization and the need to support their families to access immunization.

## 1.5 Resource Management

Resources that were made available for the project included the project fund of Ghc 10,000 as well as posters and community record books. The knowledge and experiences of the five member project team were also additional resources for the project. These resources were effectively used for the project. The funds were used judiciously in the provision of logistics for the satellite centers and the effective functioning of the project team. This has resulted in the achievement of the above mentioned deliverables. The team ensured that resources were not diverted for any purposes apart from project implementation purpose. Resources were distributed according to the detailed implementation plan.

## 1.6 Lessons Learned

- Some of the lessons learnt include the fact that the low immunization coverage in the area is not attributed only to lack of will by care givers but also because of the inability of the health personnel to avail themselves due to logistical constraints. It was also surprising to know that some men and family heads downplayed the relevance of immunization because they think the six killer diseases are no longer in existence.
- Some short comings were also experience during the implementation and need to be improved upon during subsequent project implementation. One of them is the timing of the project period which coincides with the farming activities of the target groups. The project team had to occasionally work at night to be able to meet the people.
- The use of the mobile van to mobilize and educate the people also worked well for the community outreach activities.
- The use of churches and mosques in the dissemination of information also worked well for the sensitization of men and community leaders on the importance of immunization.

## 1.7 Project Closure Recommendations

### Project Closure Recommendations

the project although has fulfilled all of the requirements as documented ,the project team has the following recommendations:

- In view of the fact that It is obvious that the budgetary allocations for various activities are woefully insufficient, The project team recommends that subsequent funds must be released timely and sufficiently
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