



GHANA AIDS COMMISSION
Under the Office of the President

TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT (TSU)
BONO REGION

1ST QUARTER BRIEF REPORT

FROM

JANUARY – MARCH 2023

APRIL, 2023

1.0 Introduction

This report covers HIV and AIDS activities which were undertaken in the 3 regions of former Brong Ahafo Region from January to March 2023. It briefly outlines coordination and advocacy meetings, condom promotion activities, Stigma reduction initiatives, behavioral Change activities including HIV Testing Services. The report also outlines some of the issues faced by the TSU as part of its effort to reduce HIV new infections within the period under review and the way forward.

2.0 Planned and other Major Activities carried out by BA-TSU

The key activities carried out within the period under review covered;

2.0.1 Filling of Condom Vender Machine (CVM).

On the 16th of January and 9th February, 2023 respectively, the TSU refilled condoms in the CVMs stationed at the JCR block of STU and National Youth Authority's office.

The purpose of this activity was to increase access to condom for the sexually active youth.

This forms part of efforts to intensify the regional condom promotion activities for tertiary institutions.

2.0.2 Development of TSU activity Implementation Matrix

Towards achieving the target set out for the year, the TSU developed a plan to provide strategic guidance for the implementation of planned activities to reduce incidence in the regions.

2.0.3 Workshop for Health Reporter and Multi Media Reporting in Ahafo, Western and Western North Regions

PEPFAR organized its first media training in Ahafo region. The purpose of the meeting was to educate the media on accurate reportage of HIV and AIDS issues and to use the appropriate terminologies in their reportage. The program was conducted on 27th and 28th January, 2023.

The Technical Coordinator fully represented the Ghana AIDS Commission and was among the resource persons for the two-day event.

A total of twenty-five (25) print and electronic media personnel were trained and the event was successful.

2.0.4 Media Interaction with Shy FM, ARK and GNA

On 14th February, 2023 the TSU was engaged in an interaction with Shy FM at the premises of the Bono Technical Support Unit.

The engagement covered discussion on condom use and publicity condom Vending Machine (CVMs). A total of 1,440 pieces of male condoms were donated to the media as GAC's contribution for Valentine Day's condom promotion program by the media.

The discussion also touched on the contribution of GAC during the celebration of Valentine Day. It was a platform that led to discussion on current status of HIV, Basic facts on HIV and AIDS, the importance of HTS, the 95-95-95 campaign among others.

2.0.5 Stigma and Discrimination case by PLHIV-Fiapre Sunyani Municipal

On 16th Feb, 2023 a Paralegal of CHAG and a PLHIV who resides at Baakoniaba in the Sunyani Municipal visited the office and lodged a complaint on the above subject. According to her, a said co-tenant stigmatized against her on several occasions and had used her HIV status to insulted her in public in the course of a misunderstanding in their compound.

The TSU whose attention was drawn to the case linked up with the Commission for Human Right and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) to seek appropriate redress of her been assaulted by a neighbor.

The TSU followed up on the case until judgement was given in favour of the PL. The respondent was charged with 2,400 Ghana cedis and was given two weeks to pay same effective 4th March. The respondent honoured his obligation by paying 2,000 of the amount and the balance 400 cedis was paid at the end of March, 2023. The amount has since been given to the PL in the presence of the TSU, CHRAJ and the Paralegal.

2.0.6 Filling of CVM's at Prisons

As part of effort to intensify the regional condom promotion activities, The TSU within the period under review filled condoms in CVMS at Prison Canteen.

The purpose of this activity is to increase access to condom at hotspot in the region.

2.0.7 HTS during Independence Celebration

HTS integrated into independence day celebration on the 6th March, 2023.

A total of 1,296 male condoms and 1,000 pieces of IEC leaflets were distributed. Also, 321 people were tested of which 209 were males and 112 were females. 1 reactive male was recorded. All persons tested received pre and post-test counselling. the Paralegal.

2.0.8 1ST RECCOM Meeting, Bono Region

The Regional GAC Committee was held on 10th March 2023 with participation from the ReCOM members.

The meeting reviewed the TSU 2022 implementation and the 2023 work plan. The meeting also discussed the HIV situation in the health sector with service data as evidence.

2.0.9 CSO review Meeting

As part of efforts to strengthen stakeholder collaboration and sharing of best practices among implementing partners, the TSU held a one -day review meeting with CSOs implementing activities in Ahafo, Bono and Bono East regions on the 24th day of March, 2023.

The meeting brought on board six (6) CSOs (PROLINK, WAPCAS CHAG, MIHOSO International, Hope for future Generation (HFFG) and Maritime Precious Life Foundation). All the CSOs made a 30 minutes' presentation covering implementation progress of 2022, including best implementation practices and Work plans for 2023.

2.0.10 RECCOM Meeting – Bono East Region

The Regional GAC Committee was held on 29th March 2023 with participation from the ReCOM members.

The meeting reviewed the TSU 2022 implementation and the 2023 work plan. The meeting also discussed the HIV situation in the health sector with service data and the status of the school alert program in the region.

2.0.11 Key Population Intervention

Key Achievements for the Month of January - March 2023

FSW Achievement Update for Quarter 1 2023										
District	REACH	TEST	POSITIVE	ENROL	CONDOMS	LUBES	HR CASES	SELF T.	PrEP	NHIS
	823	707	11	11	6000	6620	2	0	44	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	823	707	11	11	6000	6620	2	0	44	0

HRM Achievement Update for Quarter 1 2023										
District	REACH	TEST	POSITIVE	ENROL	CONDOMS	LUBES	HR CASES	SELF T.	PrEP	NHIS
	382	349	5	5	0	600	1	0	6	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	382	349	5	5	0	600	1	0	6	0

3.0 Other Activities

Within the period under review, the TSU also participated in the following activities;

3.0.1 Staff Retreat -2023

As part of the commissions efforts to strengthen Human resource for effective and efficient performance, the Bono TSU participated in a one-week general staff retreat on 16th – 22nd January, 2023 at Busua Beach Resort, Western region

The retreat provided the opportunity for staff to re-energize for a successful implementation of 2023 programme priorities.

Staff were also oriented on NPS 2021-2025, Performance management, team work and management among others. The retreat also created the opportunity for members to discuss the best practices for improve HIV and AIDS response.

4.0 Summary of HTS Data (First 95 Campaign)

The TSU as part of its efforts to achieve the target of the 95-95-95 Campaign, also Carried out HIV Testing, Condom promotion and distribution of IE&C materials within the period under review.

4.0.1 First 95 Campaign

BRONG AHAFO REGIONAL HIV TESTING SERVICES (HTS) SUMMARY SHEET JAN - MARCH, 2023												
Activity	Number Tested			Tested Positive			Condoms (Pcs)			IE&C Materials		
	Total	M	F	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	Posters	Flyers	Total
HTS BY TSU	321	209	112	1	0	0	2880	0	2880	0	1000	1000
HTS BY MMDAs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	321	209	112	1	0	0	2880	0	2880	0	1000	1000

5.0 Challenges

Though the region made progress, the under listed issues still remained major challenges during the period under review:

- I. Inadequate and delay in the approval of resources affected the implementation of Planned HIV activities by the TSU in the region.
- II. Delay in the release of DACF continue to affect the MMDAs HIV response
- III. Irregular supply of necessary logistics such as HIV test kits, reagents for viral load and condoms adversely affected service delivery.
- IV. Loss to follow up of Client is still an issue in most of the facilities in the region
- V. Providing HIV services to clients in Island communities still remain an issue.
- VI. Some PLHIV continued to suffer stigma and discrimination.

6.0 Recommendation /Way Forward

Towards strengthening the regional HIV response, there is the need for the region to mobilize internal resources including the contribution of the district Assembly common funds to augment funds from GAC, NACP and other development partners.

- I. The TSU will continue to engage traditional authorities, media personnel, religious leaders, service providers and PLHIVs to address HIV-related stigma and discrimination issues, and also intensify efforts to prevent new HIV infections.
- II. The TSU together with its partners will also continue to intensify and Increase access to all HIV-related services e.g. Promote and Increase access to condoms, intensify HIV testing and Counselling, Intensify BCC intervention, Increase uptake of ARVs and other services to reduce the vulnerability of HIV infections.
- III. TSU will continue to strengthen referral linkages to improve access to services such as Viral load testing, HIV testing, ARV prophylaxis, HAART, social mitigation services among others.
- IV. The TSU will continue to coordinate and monitor all HIV activities in the region to achieve the maximum goal of the commission.
- V. There is the need to conduct periodic Data Quality Audit and validation to ensure effectiveness and quality of implementations.
- VI. The TSU will follow up on all S&D cases to its logical conclusion.

7.0 Conclusion

Notwithstanding the challenges faced by the region, The TSU is optimistic and will continue to work actively with key partners and other stakeholders to intensify stigma reduction efforts, increase uptake of HTS and PMTCT services, increase the availability and education on condom use, increase access to IE&C materials, strengthen monitoring as well as promote collaboration with stakeholders especially the GHS/NACP, MMDAs, CSOs and key development partners towards the regional HIV