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13th January, 2017

The Director

Department of Social Welfare

P.O. Box 12

Ejisu

Dear Sir,

SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL REPORT ON 2016 ACTIVITIES

Our outfit is pleased to submit a report on all activities conducted during the year 2016.

During the year we worked on a National HIV Strategic Plan Project funded by Ghana AIDS Commission in Asamankese, Eastern Region of Ghana. Even though the major funder of this project is Ghana AIDS Commission, they funded us through Theatre for Social Change Ghana.

This happens to be the only project our outfit worked on during the year.

The report covers the activities carried out during this project, and achievements.

My Regards.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Appiah Kwadwo Benjamin".

Appiah Kwadwo Benjamin

Executive Director

Freeworld International

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NATIONAL HIV STRATEGIC PLAN (NSP) PROJECT REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT

(JANUARY-DECEMBER 2016)

SUBMITTED BY:

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13th January, 2017

1.0 Executive Summary

The National Strategic Plan Project continues to make the needed impact of zero new infections in West Akim Municipality.

During the year of the implementation of the NSP Project, **1,975** people were reached with HIV intervention activities through **one-on-one and small group**, **1860** people were reached through **stigma reduction activities**, and **16,027** condoms (M-15991, F-36) were sold. A total of **1,484** youth and **2,351** adults were also reached during the quarter.

The Peer Educators could not mobilize any pregnant woman for EMTCT Services. This was due to increased drive for EMTCT services among all pregnant women in our 8 Communities. The Project was able to test and counsel **100** people on HIV/AIDS. It is our hope that enough test kits will be secured to do more testing and counseling.

This report provides a summary of the activities undertaken to reduce new HIV infections among the different population groups in eight (8) communities in the West Akim Municipality, the progress in program implementation, the key lessons learned and key challenges in the program implementation. The information contained in this report was compiled from onsite field reports (National HIV Data Collection Tools) and discussions with Key stakeholders and informants.

2.0 Background

The overall goal of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) Project was to reduce new HIV infections among the general population in its project communities. It was based on this that, Freeworld International, an NGO based in Jamestown-Asamankese in the Eastern Region with substantial experience in community mobilization, HIV/AIDS and EMTCT issues was engaged to work in eight (8) selected project communities in the Lower West Akim Municipal. The objectives of the project were:

- To promote safer sexual practices in the general population, especially among vulnerable groups.
- To reduce sexual transmission of HIV.
- To increase the proportion of women and infants completing EMTCT services.

3.0 Activities, Progress and Results

This year's project activities covered **Peer Education, Community Workshops, HIV Testing and Counseling, Monitoring and Evaluation**. An outline of activities which were undertaken during the period was:

3.1 Monitoring and Evaluation of Project Communities: Monitoring and evaluation was effective during this period, as witnessed by Theatre for Social Change monitoring team during their monitoring visits. This was due to the learnings from the challenges we had with our Peer Educators last year. During these sessions, Peer Educators were given the opportunity to voice their challenges and effective solutions were generated with them through discussions. An objective analysis of their strengths, weaknesses and areas which they had to concentrate in order to achieve the project objectives were discussed with them. Those who were lacking behind in terms of achieving the set targets were coached on new strategies to use to achieve their targets.

3.2 Condom Promotion; Promotion of commodities has been excellent. Even though the sales points in our Project Communities were not many, they were patronized by the community members. Condoms sales have doubled this quarter compared with the previous quarter. This was a combined effort of both Peer Educators and the Project Team. It is our hope that condom sales and the number of sales points shall continue to rise till the Project ends.

3.3 Community workshops: A total of 7 community workshops were organised during the year. They were held in **Sabon Zongo, Estate, Awaham, Kobriso ,Anomaa Kojo,Asuofori and Bunso**. The topics were on safer sexual practices, developing a testing attitude, EMTCTs and HIV/AIDS. The level of participation in the community was encouraging and discussions were participatory. Target groups like the youth groups, men and women fellowships were met separately in all communities for the workshops. This was done in order to deliver targeted and tailored HIV/AIDS messages to few people and groups in the project communities. The objective of these workshops were directed at promoting safer sexual practices and sensitising community members on EMTCT issues and stigma and discrimination and HIV/AIDS. Community workshops were led by Community Health Nurses based in respective communities who had been instructed by the Municipal Health Directorate to support the project, with support from Freeworld International project staff.

3.4 Peer Education: Our interactions with community members were mostly carried out by **trained peer educators. Their discussions usually covered safer sexual practices, HIV/AIDS, STIs and EMTCTs.** The peer educators were observed to have applied most of the skills that were taught during the training. The commitment and work rate of our peer educators have increased this quarter.

3.5 Testing and Counseling: Testing and Counseling was carried out in Bunso, a farming community in West Akim Municipal. The activity was used to educate community members on the importance of testing and also to test community members who voluntarily wanted to test for HIV. The community members were very receptive during these sessions due to the eagerness to know more on testing and the desire to test. It was quite unfortunate that the test kits were not enough for the activity.

A summary of our results is below:

Results Matrix

INTERVENTION AREAS	Activity	Indicator	Target	Results	Cumulative Results
	Community Outreach	Number of youth reached with HIV prevention interventions	946	1,484	1,484
		Number of adults reached with HIV prevention interventions	1,156	2,351	2,351
		Number of People reached with HIV prevention interventions through one-on-one and small group	1,471	1,975	1,975
		Number of people reached with Stigma Reduction activities	631	1,860	1,860

	Counseling and Testing	Number of people received HIV Testing and Counseling (HTC) and know their results	515	100	100
	Condom Promotion	Number of condoms distributed	12,500	16,027	16,027

4.0 Unplanned/Unexpected Activities Carried out

It is imperative to know that no unplanned activity was carried out within the year.

5.0 Constraints and Challenges

- The project could not get enough test kits to embark on voluntary testing and counseling in all our project communities.
- The leaders of the target groups we met during the community workshops and HTC objected to writing of their members' names, instead they wanted only their names (leaders) to be written as a representation of the whole group.
- People are motivated to attend the community workshops when they hear that some condoms will be given for free and this is an extra cost to the project.

6.0 Lessons Learned

- We have realised that there should be more capacity building programs to motivate community stakeholders to be able to address HIV/AIDs issues during and after the project.
- Strengthened partnership with the Asamankese Municipal Government Hospital and the Municipal HIV/AIDS Focal Person was integral in the successful project implementation.
- The Peer Educators, if motivated through higher allowances will make bigger impacts than they have made at the moment.

7.0 Conclusion.

Even though this project has ended, we hope to secure more funding to continue the unfinished work in the municipality. A lot of people need education on HIV related issues especially testing and counseling.

It is our hope that this dream is realized this year.

9.0 Financial Report

A detailed financial report is attached to this report.

10.0 Appendixes

Data on Condom Distribution Outlets, Condom sales by Peer Educators, list of Peer Educators, HTC summary and Quarterly PRI is attached to this report.

10.1 DATA ON CONDOM OUTLETS ESTABLISHED

SN	NAME OF COMMUNITY	NUMBER OF OUTLETS	VANTAGE POINT
1.	Asuofori	1	Barbering shop
2.	Awaham	1	Barbering shop
3.	Anomaakwadwo	1	Electric Shop
4.	Estate	1	Barbering shop
5.	Bunso	1	Barbering shop
6.	Kobiriso	1	Barbering shop
7.	Osenase	1	Fitting shop
8.	Salbon Zongo	1	Spare parts shop

10.2 LIST OF PEER EDUCATORS

NAMES OF PEER EDUCATORS	COMMUNITIES	PHONE NUMBERS
1. Mohammed Abubakari	Sabon Zongo	0271946360
2. Yeboah Mensah	Estate	0243825594
3. Zuta Emmanuel	Bunso	0546108708
4. Lamrana Issahaku	Osenase	0244044889
5. Oku Joshua	Anomaa Kojo	0242122198
6. Darko Rosina	Asuofori	0248810506
7. Akwesi Owusu	Awaham	0241228509
8. Amos Budu	Kobriso	0247099775

10.3 Summary of Commodity Sales during the Quarter (January to March 2016)

NAMES OF PEER EDUCATORS	COMMUNITIES	SALES (QTY)	
		Male Condom	Female Condom
1. Mohammed Abubakari	Sabon Zongo	324	2
2. Yeboah Mensah	Estate	225	3
3. Zuta Emmanuel	Bunso	350	2

4. Lamrana Issahaku	Osenase	200	6
5. Oku Joshua	Anomaa Kojo	280	6
6. Darko Rosina	Asuofori	400	4
7. Akwesi Owusu	Awaham	300	6
8. Amos Budu	Kobriso	422	7
TOTAL SALES FOR THE QUARTER		2501	36

10.4 Pictures from project implementation.



A community workshop at Awaham



A community workshop at Estate



A pretest talk at Bunso



A voluntary HIV Testing activity at Bunso