

SITE VISITS - THURSDAY JULY 17, 2008

Group A

- Tema General Hospital
- The AIDS Support Association (TASA)
- PEPFAR Regional Distribution Centers
- Opportunity International (Timber Market - Madam Ama Chewing Stick "Factory")
 - Edwin Kumah Drah
 - Chinyere Uzomba
 - Zinhle Dlamini
 - Erick Kabendera
 - Roseline Wanyiri
 - David Baron
 - Ofeibea Quist-Arcton
 - Erica Frenkel

Group B

- Amasama Health Center
- Baanuye Mercy Group
- Opportunity International (Mama Emmaco Fashion)
 - Agnes Asiimwe
 - Boaventura Massango
 - Frederick Murithi
 - Abel Ticha
 - Anna-Maria Lombard
 - Charity Mboози
 - Mohammed Yahia
 - Enó Isong

Group C

- Maamobi Polyclinic
- Yada-Da Allah Moslem Women Support Group
- Opportunity International (Lartebiokoshie Community - Rebecca's Snack Shop)
- PEPFAR Regional Distribution Centers
 - Ntai Bagshaw
 - Zoumana Coulibaly
 - Ayub Kirunda
 - Esther Mbondo
 - Esperance Ndayisenga
 - John Donnelly
 - Penny Duckham

GROUP A

Tema General Hospital is the main hospital in the Tema metropolis. Tema is considered the "heart of the country's development and is 25 kms from Accra. It has a population of 506,400 (2000 census). Tema city has an artificial harbour, which was opened in 1961 and was developed from a small fishing village to become Ghana's leading seaport and industrial center. Tema has a government hospital, a government polyclinic, 3 health centres and numerous private hospitals and clinics.

Contacts:

- Dr. (Mrs.) Charity Sarpong, Medical Superintendent
- Mrs. Patience Mamattah, Administrator
- Dr. Patricia Nkansah

The AIDS Support Association: This is a support group for HIV+ people who have undertaken income-generating activities to help sustain themselves and their families. These activities include selling soft drinks, making beads and designing t-shirts. The association, which was founded in 2003, meets once a month to encourage each other. There are about 100 members, with about 50 on treatment. The group also offers counseling and distributes food packages donated from NGOs.

PEPFAR Regional Distribution Centers: The Regional Distribution Centers are part of the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Even though Ghana is not a PEPFAR country, it was chosen as the best location for the RDC in West Africa because of the nearby port facility in Tema; relative economic and political stability, receptivity of the government in having the facility located there and proximity to Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire, two PEPFAR focus countries.

Contact:

- Vera Amon, Branch Manager

Timber Market Chewing Stick "Factory": Opportunity International supports entrepreneurs who produce and sell chewing sticks to the general public. Please note though that these projects are not HIV projects, but rather show how regular people have decided to better their lives by starting businesses in the trade or service industry. Madam Ama is in her 13th cycle of getting bank loans from Opportunity International to continue in her chewing stick business. She currently employs 200 people.

Contact:

- George Asare, Loan Consultant, Opportunity International

GROUP B

Amasaman Health Center: Amasaman is part of the Ga West district in the greater Accra region. The district used to be almost entirely rural but in recent years has begun to become very urbanized. The lack of health infrastructure in the district is because urban growth has rapidly outstripped the infrastructure that used to be adequate for a sparsely populated rural district. There are no government hospitals or polyclinics. The Amasaman Health Centre in the Ga West District has been designated as a center for the treatment of Buruli Ulcer. Buruli ulcer is a neglected tropical disease caused by a germ which affects mainly the skin, but can sometimes affect the bone. The causative organism is called *Mycobacterium ulcerans* which belongs to the same family of organisms that cause leprosy and tuberculosis.

Contact:

- Ms. Love, HIV Focal Person

Baanuye Mercy Group: This group gets most of its support from the Amasaman Health Center, which provides them with space where they can hold their meetings as well as produce their t-shirts and other materials as part of their income-generating activities.

Contact:

- Solomon Tetteh: Coordinator

Mama Emmaco Fashion: Eunice started off selling second hand clothes and has since blown up to be one of the sought after fashion clothes stores in Accra. She imports ladies wear and children's clothes as well as fashionable shoes. Her husband has long since quit his job to become her partner in the business. In her 8th cycle of receiving loans from Opportunity International, Eunice is now set on opening her third store which will stock men's suits. She is currently in the approval process of receiving a GH¢10,000 loan, the largest ever given – or considered – by the loan group.

Contact:

- Hannah Guabeng, Supervisor, Opportunity International
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GROUP C

Maamobi Polyclinic: Maamobi is one of the densely populated areas in the Accra Metropolis and sanitary conditions in the area are generally poor. Consequently, the residents are prone to diseases such as cholera and malaria. The area is also among the highest in maternal and child mortality in region. Just this past June, some Members of Parliament, during a recent visit to the Maamobi Polyclinic and its environs, were dismayed when they were informed that the Polyclinic has not had regular water supply for the past ten years. This past February, U.S. First Lady Laura Bush and Ghana First Lady Theresa Kufuor, visited the Polyclinic as part of President Bush's official visit to Ghana. The event highlighted President Bush's Malaria Initiative (PMI), through which Ghana will receive \$17 million per year over the next three years.

Contact:

- Dr. Kumass, Medical Superintendent, Maamobi Polyclinic
- Sister Francisca Atsyro, HIV Focal Person, Maamobi Polyclinic

Yaddah Dah Allah Muslim Women Association is a group of HIV+ Muslim women in the Pig Farm area of Accra. The women meet regularly for support as well as to sell their wares which include shea butter.

Contact:

- Trudy Nunoo, Director, Pro-Link
- Ethel Sakitey, Head of Programs, Pro-Link

Rebecca's Snack & Supplies Shop in the Lartebiokoshie Community is another example of a woman who took the opportunity to get a loan and start her small "snack" store business. She is now in her third cycle and is now trying to fully stock her store and has also bought a fridge. She says she has been encouraging her friends and neighbors to take advantage of the small loans, but reports that most people are too afraid to deal with the banking system. Rebecca is now in the 3rd cycle of her loan.

Contact:

- George Asare, Loan Consultant, Opportunity International

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- Vera Amon, Branch Manager