



IOM International Organization for Migration



MIDA GHANA HEALTH PROJECT

BI-MONTHLY UPDATE FOR MAY AND JUNE 2009

Dear Partner,

Welcome to the **8th Edition** of the **MIDA Ghana Health Bi-monthly Update** of the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) Ghana Health III Project (2008 -2012).

The MIDA Ghana Health Project is a health sector brain gain project implemented by the Ghanaian Ministry of Health and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and funded by the government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The project provides opportunities for Europe-based Ghanaian and other African health professionals to temporarily return to conduct assignments in Ghana with the overarching aim of helping build human resource capacity in the Ghanaian health sector. Opportunities are also offered to a few committed Ghana-based health workers to undergo internships (short practical training) in health

institutions in Europe. The project is managed by IOM the Netherlands and IOM Ghana.

This edition is dedicated to the donor representative for this project, **Dr. Marius de-Jong**, the First Secretary for Health and Gender of Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Accra whose duty tour to Ghana comes to its end in August 2009. He will certainly be remembered for his hard work, meticulous sense of duty and as a protagonist of donor support to the Ghanaian health sector.

Highlights of this edition include:

- A description of the assignments and events realised in the months of May and June 2009.
- A summary of the proceedings of the ninth MIDA Health Taskforce meeting.

I wish you happy reading.

David Appiah

MIDA Field Manager, IOM Accra.

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

1. Dr. CONRAD BUCKLE @ Tamale

Dr. Conrad Buckle a Ghanaian Accident and Emergency Medicine Specialist, based in UK was on a 3 months assignment with the MIDA Ghana Health Project at the Tamale Teaching Hospital in the Northern Region of Ghana from April to July 2009. Whilst on assignment Conrad Buckle undertook BLS training for 30 medical students, nurses and other health professionals. He facilitated a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) certified training on 'Emergency and Acute Medicine - Current Practice and Relevance to Ghana' for an audience of doctors coming from across the north of Ghana. In addition, he held discussions with hospitality and airline industry staff in Tamale to develop a basic first aid and emergency care training course for their use. Conrad Buckle also served as a medical doctor for an international football match between the national teams of Ghana and Uganda whilst in Tamale at the new Tamale Sports Stadium on Sunday 31 May. In the area of hospital management, he played an instrumental role in improving emergency services and advising on the expansion of the emergency ward.



Dr. Buckle with workers at Tamale Teaching Hospital

2. JOANNA OWIREDU-OPPONG @ Jirapa and Donyina

Joanna Owiredu-Oppong, a nurse/midwife and a member of Motec Life UK volunteer group started her assignments at the St. Joseph's Hospital in Jirapa in the Upper West Region from the 27th of April to the 8th of May. She undertook classroom lecturing of Nurses, Midwives and Community Health Nurses and Nursing Assistants. In all, about 50 students benefited from her lectures. Aside the classroom lectures she took the groups through practical teaching on the ward on various aspects of patients care such as care in labour, antenatal and post-natal care of clients. For her practical teachings on the ward, 30 students and about 50 patients benefited.

She also taught various exercises for about 100 antenatal and post-natal patients. In addition, Joanna gave practical teachings to clients/patients through demonstration of baby bathing, examination of newborn babies, breast feeding, and general basic hygiene. Also she taught how to observe for signs and symptoms of infections in the newborn and how to conduct infant resuscitation of a newborn after delivery. The care of mother and baby during ante partum and post partum periods was also tackled. Birth control advisory services were provided for 30 patients as well as breastfeeding care and advice to around 100 patients. The training provided to the Nurses and the Health Assistants enhanced patients care.

On behalf of Motec Life UK, the Community Health Department of the Hospital was given equipments such as oral thermometers, syringes and needles, neo-natal ambu-bags, feeding tubes, and

delivery packs to help with their work in the surrounding villages.

After a two day break, Joanna continued with a two week assignment, between 11th May and 22nd May 2009, at the St. Ann's Hospital, Donyina in the Ejisu-Juabeng District of the Ashanti Region. During her assignment she lectured and did practical teaching in a ward setting for nurses, medical assistants and nursing assistants. This included practical demonstrations on various aspects of patient care and antenatal and post-natal care. In addition, she engaged in the practical teaching of clients/patients, including demonstration of baby bathing, examination of newborns, breast feeding, and general basic hygiene. She gave advice to new mothers on child immunization and its importance, as well as showing them how to observe signs and symptoms of infection in their newborns. Altogether, 15 trained and untrained personnel and approximately 50 patients benefited from this assignment. Additionally, thirty clients received birth control advisory services, fifty patients received antenatal and post-natal advice, and another fifty patients were advised on breastfeeding. Joanna pointed out that the hospital required some basic things to function, and therefore recommended that Motec-Life UK try and raise funds for the purchase of these items.

3. BARIMA ASAMOAH KOFI IV @ Ripples Healthcare

Barima Asamoah Kofi, a Social Health Counselor and a Ghanaian Traditional chief, based in Amsterdam, undertook his assignment with Ripples Health Care in Accra from 23rd March to 23rd June 2009. Ripples Healthcare trains caregivers to offer specialist palliative care to patients who have life-limiting illnesses like cancer, diabetes and stroke.

In addition, it also provides care for the mentally and physically challenged, and for babies. During his assignment at the facility Barima tutored about 30 trainee care-givers and tutors. Aside classroom training, Barima also personally visited 16 patients in their homes for practical training lessons for the care-givers, by the end of his assignment. Barima was a resource person at various public health and HIV/AIDS awareness workshops organized by various stakeholders during the period of his assignment. Notable among these was one organized to train a group of actors and members of the Musicians Union of Ghana on HIV/AIDS awareness-creation held in Accra.

4. GMHED TEAM @ Ankaful and Pantang NTCs

Three members of the Ghana Mental Health Educators in the Diaspora (GMHED) team, who are based in UK, undertook an assignment between 8th June and 26th June, spending two weeks at Ankaful Psychiatry Nursing Training College (NTC) and one week at Pantang Psychiatry NTC.



Lecture time with a GMHED team member at Pantang NTC

Led by Mr. Peter Prah, the team lectured students at the two institutions as well as trained lecturers and preceptors in using advanced teaching methodology in mental health nursing education. In

addition the team provided clinical services at the two psychiatry hospitals. Overall 17 local staff members were trained by the GMHED team, and a total of 515 students benefited from their lectures. The host institutions rated the GMHED team's assignment as very good and beneficial.

5. MOTEC Life UK TEAM



The Motec Team

Between 14th and 26th June, six Motec Life - UK volunteers were in Ghana for voluntary work, the third of such visits this year. The team was led by Dr. Christine Amakye, an Anaesthetist, and had two clinical leads, Dr. Ofori-Atta, an Orthopaedic Surgeon, and Dr. Michael Burke, a General Surgeon. Other members of the contingent included Dr. Thungo Kuwani, a Consultant Anaesthetist, Mrs. Felicity Adu-Mills, a Palliative Care Nurse, and Mr. Raymond Ofori, a Biomedical Scientist.

The working visit saw task teams of volunteers providing lectures and or clinical services at four main base hospitals- Akosombo, Jirapa St Joseph's, Nkawkaw Holy Family and Koforidua St Joseph's Hospital. In addition to the base hospitals, some members of the team visited other hospitals, which also benefited from educational programmes and professional guidance. These institutions included Komfo Anokye

Teaching Hospital, Kumasi (Trauma/Orthopaedic/Anaesthetic collaboration), Sefwi Asafo Hospital (International Surgical Centre - a collaboration professionally guided by Motec) and the Nurses' Colleges in the base hospitals.

A surgical team was based at Nkawkaw Holy Family Hospital, led by Dr. Michael Burke, Consultant General Surgeon, and supported by Dr. Thungo Kuwani. Mrs. Felicity Adu-Mills and Mr. Raymond Ofori were present to provide support at the induction phase. A variety of clinical-surgical services were provided, assisted by local staff, including herniorrhaphy, thyroid and breast surgery. Daily lectures were given at the Nurses' College, which attracted attentive students and tutors and spurred lively discussions. Up to 150 students attended each lecture. The team worked at this base hospital for about 2 weeks.



Lecture time at Nkawkaw Nurses College

The Akosombo team was made up of Dr. Paul Ofori-Atta and Dr. Christine Amakye, supported at some stages by the Biomedical Scientist, Mr. Raymond Ofori. Daily lectures were given to doctors, nurses and students, and were accredited by the local Professional Colleges and Councils. The average attendance of the lectures was estimated at about 35. The team worked with the

resident Orthopaedic Consultant and doctors, registrars and final year medical students on rotation from the teaching hospital in Accra. Clinical conditions treated included sickle cell, bone and joint disease, knee ligament injuries, degenerative joint diseases, fractures, and hand and limb deformities.

The second working visit saw a reconstitution of teams. Dr Ofori-Atta visited the Sefwi Asafo St. John of God Hospital in the Western Region to assess the progress of work at the International Surgical Centre, which was being developed for training and clinical services, and being sponsored by the Brothers of St. John of God, Dublin. During the visit, Dr Ofori-Atta reported satisfactory progress with the structural changes. The other team, led by Dr. Christine Amakye, Mr. Raymond Ofori and Mrs. Felicity Adu-Mills, headed for Jirapa, seven hours from Kumasi, as Dr. Ofori-Atta returned from the Western Region to join Dr. Burke and Dr. Kuwani at Kumasi.

The Jirapa team embarked on an intensive teaching programme at the nurses, midwifery and community colleges. Lectures were well attended by both students and tutors. In all 200 students attended and benefited from the lectures. The team also exchanged ideas on clinical care, which led to Motec adopting one malnourished patient. The team stayed for four nights in the hospital, and the hospital and the people of Jirapa were very appreciative of Motec's working visit. The volunteers found the people of Jirapa very friendly and welcoming.



Lecture time at Jirapa

Motec's lecture series during its assignment included the following topics:

- Post-operative Care
- Post-operative Pain Control
- Patient Recovery
- Cervical Spine Injuries
- Radiography
- Microbial Infection – the 21st Century Challenges
- Breast in Health and Disease
- The Thyroid Gland in Health and Disease
- Community Patient Care
- Post-partum Haemorrhage
- The Expert Patient
- Bacterial Vaginosis
- Tuberculosis
- Sickle Cell Bone and Joint Disease – Case Report on Arthroplasty on SS Disease.

6. DOROTHY BOATEMAH

Dorothy Boatemah a Ghanaian Elderly Care Nurse from the Netherlands undertook assignment with Ripples Health Care in Accra. She took part in lectures and provided support in administering medication to patients. In addition she made available reading and lecture note materials to students to enhance their capacity. Role play and

class interactions characterized the teaching sections. Dorothy during her assignment at Ripples Health Care also participated in a seminar as well as the graduation of some students.

Dorothy also held meetings with several stakeholders in the Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo and Central Regions of Ghana to conclude her research/feasibility study on Geriatric (Elderly care) in Ghana. The findings of this study will be presented to an audience of key stakeholder with the aim of informing government policy on geriatrics

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Ninth Project Taskforce Meeting of the MIDA Ghana Health III Project

The ninth meeting of the Project Taskforce of the MIDA Ghana Health Project took place on 25th June, 2009, at the Ministry of Health (MoH). In attendance was Dr. Ebenezer Appiah-Denkyira, Chairman of the Taskforce and representing the MoH Human Resources for Health Development (HRHD) Directorate. Other members of the Task Force comprise representatives of the HRHD Directorate of MoH, the Medical and Dental Council, the Nurses and Midwives Council, the Christian Health Association of Ghana, the National Catholic Health Service, the Ghana Health Service, the Pharmacy Council, International Organization for Migration, the Health Links Desk of the MoH and the Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate of MoH.

At the meeting The IOM representative informed members that there have been fifty-seven temporary returns since the beginning of the third phase of the project (April 2008). He also reminded members of the project's objective of

focusing more on the four northern regions of Ghana. The Chairman stated that the meetings would be more effective if they were held at the implementation level (GHS), rather than being held at the policy level (MoH).

It came to light that most resource persons provided training sessions for staff and students of beneficiary institutions, with certificates awarded to participants in some cases. It was therefore suggested that steps should be taken by MoH to integrate these trainings into the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) schedules of the host institutions for maximum impact. The meeting was also informed of the preparation pre-departure orientation manual to be distributed to resource persons of the project before commencement of their assignments with the aim of smoothing the integration process into the Ghanaian system. An Agreement of Stakeholder Obligations for the implementation of the project was also in the offering and will be presented for discussion at the next meeting.

Finally, it was agreed at the meeting that in August the Deputy Minister of Health should be debriefed on IOM's activities and projects in the health sector. In addition, copies of the MIDA Ghana Health Project brochures from IOM should be made available to the Minister's secretariat. The next meeting was scheduled for the month of September 2009.