

**14) Minutes of Meetings
on Terminal Evaluation**
(Signed on 21st November 2014)

15) Project Outcomes Dissemination Meeting

PROGRAMME
Project Outcomes Dissemination Meeting

*JICA Project for Strengthening Operational Capacity of
Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT)*

Date: Tuesday 25th November 2014

Time: 8:30am – 13:30pm

Venue: Labadi Beach Hotel - Accra

Time	Activity		Speaker
08:30 – 09:00	Registration		
09:00 – 09:30	Opening	Introduction of Chairperson	MC, PR Officer, GHS
		Chairperson's Response and Welcome address	Deputy Director General, GHS
		Statement by JICA	Senior Representative, JICA
09:30 – 10:00	Presentation 1: JICA-PMTCT Project Outline		Greater Accra Regional Health Directorate
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation 2: Project Outcomes: End-line Survey Results		Researcher
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Break</i>		
10:45 – 11:15	Presentation 3: Project Outcomes: Terminal Evaluation Results		Terminal Evaluation Mission
11:15 – 11:45	Screening: Mama's Determination (video drama)		
11:45 – 12:15	Presentation 4: Sustainability & Scaling-up Plan		NACP
12:15 – 12:45	Introduction: PMTCT Handbook & Supervisory Checklist		NACP
12:45 – 12:50	Speech by Special Guest		Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan
12:50 – 12:55	Speech by Guest of Honour		Representative of Minister of Health
12:55 – 13:10	Closing	Closing remark	Deputy Director General, GHS
		Vote of Thanks	Regional Director, Greater Accra Region
13:10 – 14:10	<i>Lunch/ Departure</i>		



List of Participants

Project Outcomes Dissemination Meeting

NO.	NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT/ ORGANISATION
CENTRAL LEVEL			
1	Hamidu Adankumgu	Director (Legal)	Ministry of Health
2	Gloria Quansah Asare	Deputy Director General	Ghana Health Service (GHS)
3	Rebecca Ackwonu	Head	Public Relations, GHS
4	Doris Amarteifio	Safe motherhood Programme Officer (RCH)	Family Health Division (FHD), GHS
5	Yvonne Ampeh	Programme Officer	Health Promotion Dept.(HPD), FHD, GHS
6	Esther Adu	Programme Officer	HPD, FHD, GHS
7	Albert Nyanney	Programme Officer	HPD, FHD, GHS
8	Bernard Dornoo	Clinical Care	National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), GHS
9	Edem Dafeamekpor	Administrator	NACP, GHS
10	Shirley B. Gyasi	Principal Nursing Officer (OBGYN)	Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital
11	Elaine D. Awumee	HIV Focal Person	Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital
12	Henry Nagai	Advisor (Strategic Information)	UNAIDS
13	Shigeru Umetsu	Deputy Chief of Mission	Embassy of Japan (EOJ)
14	Etsuko Ito	Coordinator	Economic Cooperation, EOJ
15	Shuhei Ueno	Deputy Director	JICA Headquarters
16	Aya Ishizuka	Assistant Expert	JICA Headquarters
17	Tsutomu Tanaka	Senior Representative	JICA Ghana Office
18	Miyuki Tan	Project Coordinator	JICA Ghana Office
19	Itsuko Shirofani	Health Advisor	JICA Ghana Office
20	Ryoko Nishida	Project Leader	Kwahu East Project, JOICFP
21	Naomi Amaike	Project Manager	Kwahu East Project, JOICFP
22	Emmanuel Akoto	Programme Coordinator	Kwahu East Project, PPAG
23	Nana Osei Akumia	Ventures Manager	PPAG
24	Lisa Grunitzky	Assistant Project Officer	PPAG
25	Annesley Abbey	Assistant Project Officer	PPAG
26	Edem Hini	Vice President	GHANET
27	Samuel Opoku-Kufuor	Coordinator	WAPCAS
28	Margaret Owusu-Amaoko	Country Team Leader (Baseline Survey Researcher)	Management Strategies for Africa
29	Elizabeth Hammah	Lead Researcher (End-line Survey)	Systems for Health
30	Angela Bannerman	Associate Researcher (End-line Survey)	YWCA
31	Nii Amah Ashitey	Director	Regional Coordinating Council, Greater Accra
32	Mayumi Katsube	Chief Advisor	JICA PMTCT Project
33	Etsuko Yamaguchi	Sub-Chief Advisor	JICA PMTCT Project
34	Shoji Yoshimatsu	Expert	JICA PMTCT Project
35	Shigeko Inaba	Administrator	JICA PMTCT Project
36	Aiko Hatano	Intern	JICA Ghana Office
GREATER ACCRA REGION			
1	Dr. Linda Vanotoo	Regional Director of Health Services	Regional Health Directorate
2	Dr. Vera Opata	Regional HIV Coordinator	Regional Health Directorate

Annex 15: Project Outcomes Dissemination Meeting

3	Juliana Sifah	Deputy Regional HIV Coordinator	HIV Unit/ Regional Health Directorate
4	Sebastian Besegah	Regional HIV Data Officer	HIV Unit/ Regional Health Directorate
5	Comfort Kwegyir-Aggrey	Deputy Director of Nursing Services	Regional Health Directorate
6	Agartha Appiah	HIV Coordinator	Anteretroviral Therapy (ART) Clinic/ Mamprobi Polyclinic, Ablekuma
7	Comfort Kugblanu	Principal Nursing Officer (Public Health)	Public Health, Accra Metro Health Directorate
8	Margaret Lartey	Deputy Director of Nursing Services	Ada East District Health Directorate
9	Dr. Dominic A. Quaye	Municipal Director of Health Service	Ga Central Municipal Health Directorate
10	Betty Owusu-Afriyie	Municipal HIV Coordinator	Ga Central Municipal Health Directorate
11	Bernard Tawiah	Metropolitan HIV Coordinator	Accra Metro Health Directorate
12	Sussie Anku	Nurse Counsellor	ART Clinic/ Ridge Regional Hospital
13	Rita Dzifa Ahaligah	Municipal HIV Coordinator	Adentan Municipal Health Directorate
14	Dr. Emily Onuoha	Ag. Sub-Metro Director of Health Service	Ablekuma South Sub-Metro Health Directorate
15	Constance Lamptey	Municipal HIV Coordinator	Ga East Municipal Health Directorate
16	Ophelia Palm	Sub-Metro HIV Coordinator	Ashiedu Keteke Sub-Metro Health Directorate
17	Hellen Deletsu	Senior Midwifery Officer	Antenatal Care (ANC)/ Ridge Regional Hospital
18	Edith Amenudzi-Darku	Municipal HIV Coordinator	Ledzokuku Krowor Municipal Health Directorate
19	Zora Irene Allotey	Principal Nursing Officer	ANC/ Jamestown Maternity Home, Ashiedu Keteke
20	Dora Cobbinah	Sub-Metro HIV Coordinator	Reproductive and Child Health (RCH)/ Osu Klottey Sub-Metro Health Directorate
21	Leticia Asare	Principal Nursing Officer (Public Health)	RCH/ Osu Klottey Sub-Metro Health Directorate
22	Dr. Justice Hoffman	Municipal Director of Health Service	Adentan Municipal Health Directorate
23	Irene Efo	District HIV Coordinator	Ada West District Health Directorate
24	Vivian A. Okpojah	District HIV Coordinator	Ningo Prampram District Health Directorate
25	Victoria Y. Okai	Deputy Director of Nursing Services	Ashaiman Muncial Health Directorate
26	Rabiatu Issaka	HIV Focal Person	ART Unit/ Kaneshie Polyclinic, Okaikoi
27	Josphine Ameseya	Sub-Metro HIV Coordinator	Ayawaso Sub-Metro Health Directorate
28	Margaret Asante	Metro HIV Coordinator	Tema Metro Health Directorate
29	Rebecca Nikoi Amasa	HIV Focal Person	Maternity/ Kpone Helath Centre, Kpone Katamanso
30	Ebenezer Asiamah	District Director of Health Service	Ada East District Health Directorate

Annex 15: Project Outcomes Dissemination Meeting

31	Patience Mamattah	Ag. District Director of Health Service	Kpone Katamanso District Health Directorate
32	Dr. Julius A. Dadebo	Municipal Director of Health Service	Ga East Municipal Health Directorate
33	Rabiatu Idriss Sumaila	Senior Midwife	Ada Health Centre, Ada East
34	Edith Agyewah	Senior Staff Midwifery	Anyaman Health Centre, Ada West
35	Dr. Patrick Amo-Mensah	Senior Medical Director	Kaneshie Polyclinic, Okaikoi
36	Gifty O. Ansah	District Director of Health Service	Ningo Prampram District Health Directorate
37	Judith Amo-Mensah	Deputy Director of Nursing Services	Tema Metro Health Directorate
38	Catherine Akogyeram	Deputy Director of Nursing Services	Ashiedu Keteke Sub-Metro Health Directorate
39	Fausitna Kargbe	Deputy Director of Nursing Services	Ga West Municipal Health Directorate
40	Leonora Botchway	Principal Nursing Officer (Public Health)	Ga West Municipal Health Directorate
41	Millicent Addams	Deputy Director of Nursing Services (Public Health)	Shai Osudoku District Health Directorate
42	Charity Sikaulai	Senior Nursing Officer (Public Health)	Shai Osudoku District Health Directorate
43	Christine Antor	Principal Nursing Officer	Ga South Municipal Health Directorate
44	Pricilla A. Siaw	Ag. Municipal Director of Health Service	La-Nkwantanan Municipal Health Directorate
45	Abraham Addo	HIV Data Manager	Maamobi General Hospital, Ayawaso
46	Adu Jerry	Health Information Officer	Ledzokuku Krowor Municipal Health Directorate
47	Happiness Martey	Staff Midwife	Bornikope Health Centre, Ada West
48	Agnes Serwah	Senior Nursing Officer (Public Health)	ART Centre/ Princess Marie Louise Children's Hospital, Ashiedu Keteke
49	Emmanuel Lokko	Pharmacist	Pharmacy/ Ada East District Hospital, Ada East
50	Florence Abbey	Midwife	Sege Health Centre, Ada West
51	Nii Amah Ashitey	Director of Admin.	Greater Accra Regional Coordinating Council
52	Vivian Obeng	Deputy Director of Nursing Services	Administration/ Ada East District Hospital
53	Joyce Apenteng	Staff Midwife	ANC/ Ada East District Hospital
54	Paulina Adiaga	District HIV Coordinator	Ada East District Health Directorate
55	Sala Sulemana	Midwifery Officer	Ada East District Health Directorate
56	Gifty Okutu	Data Officer	ART/ La General Hospital, La Dade-Kotopon
57	Dr. Stella Gyamfi	Sub-Metro Director of Health Service	Ashiedu Keteke Sub-Metro Health Directorate
58	Ruby Awittor	Municipal HIV Focal Person	Ashaiman Municipal Health Directorate
EASTERN REGION			
1	Dr. Charity Sarpong	Regional Director of Health Service	Regional Health Directorate

Annex 15: Project Outcomes Dissemination Meeting

2	Dr. Antobre Boateng	Acting Deputy Director of Public Health	Regional Health Directorate
3	Ashong Richard	Regional HIV Coordinator (Representative)	Regional Health Directorate
VOLTA REGION			
1	Evans Attivor	Deputy Regional Director of Health Service	Regional Health Directorate
ASHANTI REGION			
1	Dr. Agyarko-Poku Thomas	Regional Director of Health Service (Representative)	Regional Health Directorate
2	Dennis Bandoh	Regional HIV Coordinator (Representative)	Regional Health Directorate
BRONG AHAFO REGION			
1	Ofori Addo	Principal Technical Officer	Regional Health Directorate
NORTHERN REGION			
1	Dr. Patrick Bampoh	Regional HIV Coordinator	Regional Health Directorate
UPPER WEST REGION			
1	Felix Berewono	Regional HIV Coordinator	Regional Health Directorate
MEDIA			
1	Christiana Adjepong	Staff	UTV
2	Jojo Agyare	Staff	UTV
3	Elias Asante	Staff	UTV
4	Jonathan Sampah Isabella O. Oppong	Staff	GTV
5	Christine Andoh	Staff	GTV
6	Mr. Agyeman	Staff	GTV
7	Humu Gaage	Journalist	Metro TV
8	Kwaku Osei	Journalist	Metro TV
9	Yaw Preko	Journalist	Metro TV
10	Kartey Oto	Journalist	Metro TV
11	Daniel Larrey	Staff	TV3
12	Godwin Larrey	Staff	TV3
13	Nii Doudo	Staff	TV3
14	Matilda Wengah	Staff	Multi TV
15	David Macarthy	Staff	Multi TV
16	Kwabena Boateng	Staff	Multi TV
17	Monica Anane	Staff	Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) Radio
18	Rita Nyarko	Assistant Editor	GBC Radio
19	Linda Anyetey	Journalist	The Ghanaian Times
20	Hannah Nkrumah	Camera	The Ghanaian Times
21	Esi Kasa	Reporter	Ghana News Agency
22	Eunice H. Ampomah	Reporter	Ghana News Agency
23	Nii Martey Botchway II	Staff	Daily Graphic
24	Mary Mensah	Staff	Daily Graphic
25	Jamila A. Okertchiri	Staff	Daily Guide

[Total No. of Participants: 128people]

1. Central: 36 people
2. Regional: 67 people
3. Media: 25 people

Press Release



Dissemination of Progresses Made in Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) with Support from Japan by the GHS

PROJECT TITLE: “Project for Strengthening Operational Capacity of Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT)”

DATE: 25th November 2014

VENUE FOR DISSEMINATION MEETING: Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra.

The GHS (GHS) in collaboration with the Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC) and under the auspices of the Ministry of Health (MOH) hereby disseminates the outcome of the successfully implemented three-year project to enhance quality of health services for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) in the Greater Accra Region with the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The “Project for Strengthening Operational Capacity of PMTCT” has been carried out jointly by the National AIDS/STI Control Programme (NACP), the Family Health Division (FHD), and the Greater Accra Regional Health Directorate of GHS in partnership with the MOH and GAC. The project components were: 1) capacity enhancement in supportive supervision; 2) capacity enhancement in PMTCT service delivery; and 3) capacity enhancement in Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) aspects of the PMTCT intervention. The capacity of approximately 550 healthcare providers was built through knowledge strengthening and skills development in delivering PMTCT services. The ability of HIV Coordinators at regional, district and sub-metropolitan levels to undertake effective facilitative supervision with respect to HIV-related services in the Greater Accra Region was also strengthened through five workshops conducted under the project, thus significantly improving the quality of services. An all new edutainment (education / entertainment) communication tools titled “Mama’s Determination,” were developed under this project to facilitate clients’ understanding of the benefits of PMTCT services and their relationship with health staffs.

The holistic approach of the project proved to be effective in quality enhancement of health services. The end-line survey conducted during the period of June – August 2014 revealed that the clients’ perception about the quality of services much improved compared with the baseline survey carried out in 2012. The terminal evaluation conducted in November 2014 concluded that the project has successfully strengthened the administrative systems for providing PMTCT-IEC services in the Greater Accra Region and that it has created a solid foundation for further progress and scale-up of quality PMTCT-IEC services throughout Ghana.

The project was designed to test strategies in a limited geographical area. As part of the exit strategy, NACP and Greater Accra Regional Health Directorate mapped out how they are going to sustain and up-scale the gains of the project beyond the project life. The GHS (NACP/FHD) will continue to collaborate with all partners and agencies towards the attainment of virtual elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV by 2015 in Ghana.

For more information, please contact: Dr. Bernard Dornoo, NACP
Tel: 0302-663638, Email: bdornoo@nacp.org.gh



G. Accra mother-to-child HIV prevention on course

By Linda Aryeetey

THE Project for Strengthening Operational Capacity of the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of Human Immune Virus (HIV), is being successfully

implemented in the Greater Accra Region.

The three-year project, funded by the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), which started in 2012 and expected to end next year, aims at enhancing the

quality of health services, for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of the virus.

It was jointly implemented by the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), the Family Health Division (FHD)

and the Greater Accra Regional Health Directorate of the Ghana Health Service, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Aids Commission.

Speaking on the progress of the PMTCT in Accra yesterday, Mr. Tsuyoshi Tanaka, Senior Representative of JICA, said the overall major components of the project, capacity enhancement of supportive supervision, PMTCT service delivery and information, education and communication on the PMTCT intervention, had been implemented.

He said that the capacity of approximately 550 health care providers, was built through knowledge strengthening and skills development in delivering PMTCT services.

Mr. Tanaka said 227 health staff of PMTCT, 118 health staff in early infant diagnosis were trained, 47 staff working in laboratories and pharmacies among others at the regional, district and sub-metro levels were also sensitised to health issues.

He said the three kinds of PMTCT – Information, Education and Communication materials, dubbed “Mama Determination” was developed at the national level.

Mr. Tanaka explained that the PMTCT-IEC materials were made of a video drama, photo drama (book) and an interactive card, which facilitates communication between mothers and healthcare providers.

The Deputy Director General of the Ghana Health Service (GHS), Dr. Gloria Quansah-Asare said the project has supported Ghana to adapt the new PMTCT protocol called ‘Option B’, recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

She observed that the project has helped to reduce the mother to child transmission of HIV.

Dr. Kwaku Agyemang Mensah, Minister for Health, in a speech read on his behalf, thanked JICA and other agencies for supporting the project, and urged them to sustain their efforts and expand it to other regions.



Dr. Gloria Quansah Asare (inset) Deputy Director General, GHS, addressing the participants.

Photo Hannah Nkrumah

Targeting An HIV Free Generation



BY Jamila Akweley Okertchiri

SLOWLY BUT surely, improvement in treatment and information for pregnant women who are HIV positive is having an impact in the Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV in Ghana.

The number of pregnant women who have access to Antiretroviral (ART) drugs have gradually increased over the years

(UNICEF), the World Health Organisation, the Joint United Nations programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), Japan International Corporation (JICA), traditional and religious leaders and civil society partners.

The provision of over 1,600 sites for providing services aimed at PMTCT of HIV, coupled with the availability of ART drugs, has made it possible for mothers like Charity to give birth to HIV negative children.

When Charity Owusu Danso tested positive for HIV some 12 years ago, all she

The counselling and support she received from trained HIV healthcare workers at the health facility, coupled with the ART drugs she received, made her wish of living a normal life come into reality, even that of being a mother.

Six years after Charity became aware of her HIV status, she had a baby who is HIV negative. "I had received information on how to protect my unborn baby from HIV by taking my medicines before my pregnancy. So it was quiet assuring that when I followed the medication she was

Ghana's HIV Status

Ghana has recorded a consistent decline in the trend of the general adult prevalence of HIV in the past decade. From 3.6 percent in 2003, the country made a declining leap to 1.3 percent in 2013—representing about a 60 percent downward trend.

This relatively low HIV prevalence translates into 224,488 persons living with HIV and AIDS in Ghana, including some



Lordina Mahama, First Lady, greeting the public on one of her campaigns for PMTCT



First Lady, Lordina Mahama with HIV Ambassadors

and more babies of HIV positive mothers are born negative in recent times.

This is due to interventions initiated by the government and particularly the Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC) with support from development partners such as United Nations Children's Fund

thought of was how to survive living with the disease so many people feared.

"I was young by then so I was interested in how to live a normal life again," she said. Charity explained that she had to use other means of treating herself till she decided to visit the hospital where a new whole world was opened to her.

born HIV negative," she added.

Now an HIV ambassador and a volunteer HIV counsellor, Charity who is pregnant with her second child believes that seeking early medical attention for her condition and going according to the prescription of health professionals have helped her to live a normal life.

34,557 children representing 15.4 percent of the total population.

New HIV infections in children have also reduced from the baseline of 25,869 in 2009 to 7,812 new infections last year. The trend is also reflected among the youth aged between 15 and 24 years.

Coverage of people living with AIDS

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WORLD AIDS DAY

Each year the UNAIDS designates the 1st of December as World AIDS Day (WAD). 2014 marks the 14th year in Ghana, while the global community is celebrating its 27th year of commemoration.

The objectives of World AIDS Day are to encourage utilisation of HIV testing and treat-

ment services, reduce new HIV infections, eliminate stigma and discrimination of HIV, mitigate the impact of AIDS on those infected and reduce stigma and

The first World AIDS Day was celebrated in 2001 and has



(PLWA) who receive ART treatment increased from 47.4 percent in 2011 to 60 percent in 2013.

Also, the death rate of the disease among the populace has reduced by 30 percent from 16,320 in 2010 to 10,074 in 2013.

Dr Angela El-Adas, Director General of the Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC), however noted that in spite of the achievement the country has made in reducing HIV infection and related deaths, more than 2000 children died from AIDS and

launch of the 2014 World AIDS Day.

She noted with worry that some 25 percent of pregnant mothers in Ghana still do not have access to HIV prevention services, a situation that is unacceptable especially in our day and age when no baby is expected to be born HIV positive.

Stumping out Hindrances

Charity has the support of her family, a component that has helped her live a

living with HIV and AIDS in Ghana.

These, including lack of testing equipment for mothers-to-be in hard to reach areas and inconsistency sometimes in the release of ARTs, all work to foil the efforts in ensuring PMTCT of HIV.

Dr El-Adas explained that for Ghana to achieve 100 percent coverage by the end of 2015 and the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by the end of the same year, health workers, families and communities must all unite and mobilise to raise funds for the procurement of commodities for testing and treatment every pregnant woman.

She said the commission's target of meeting the new standard of achieving the global target of 90, 90, 90, where 90 percent of all persons living with HIV would get to know their status, 90 percent of infected persons are started on ART and 90 percent of all persons on treatment have their viral load, can become a reality if the above is pursued.

The Director General of GAC further noted that the commission's campaign against stigmatisation and discrimination to mitigate the psychological impact of HIV and AIDS on the infected and affected would continue to ensure no person is left behind in access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support to achieve the above target.

Currently, the prevention of mother-to-child transmission services have been integrated into sexual and reproductive health services as part of a five-year Strategic Plan of the Ghana AIDS Commission aimed at achieving virtual elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Strengthening Health Workers' Capacity

Approximately 550 healthcare providers have benefitted from a knowledge strengthening and skills development training in the delivery of Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission

Ghana AIDS Commission, also developed HIV Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programmes targeted at keeping in touch with pregnant women and educating the public on the PMTCT.

Mama's Determination, a video drama in Twi with a subtitle in English, was composed under the project together with its paper version. Also, interactive cards nurses can use to stay in touch with clients while passing on important information were developed.

The project undertaken in the Greater Accra Region has already recorded an improvement in the administrative systems for providing PMTCT-IEC. This became evident after an evaluation of the project.

The terminal evaluation conducted in November 2014 revealed that the provision of improved PMTCT-IEC services has created a solid foundation for further progress and scale-up of the quality of PMTCT-IEC throughout the country.

Government's role in the advocacy campaign to support efforts to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV has been strengthened by First Lady Lordina Mahama's pledge to work with all stakeholders to ensure the success of the advocacy on the attainment of zero new infections, discrimination and AIDS-related deaths by 2015.

Mrs Mahama, the premiere ambassador of the UNAIDS Global Plan on the PMTCT and first Vice-President of the Organisation of African First Ladies against HIV and AIDS (OAFILA), advocated for the elimination of some traditions and customs that make it difficult for women to take personal decisions on matters of their reproductive health for fear of stigma, discrimination or non-acceptance of HIV status by male partners and families.

She said so far Ghana is on track towards achieving a virtual elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and therefore pledged a personal commitment to support all initiatives targeted at



A re-enrolled patient talks to a volunteer at a local ART

related causes in 2013.

She said that about 2,207 children aged zero to 15 were also infected with HIV in the same year.

"In Ghana women were the majority of those affected by HIV; and that, together with children, formed about 70 percent of all cases," she indicated at the just ended

normal life despite being HIV positive. But not everyone gets her kind of support, especially women who get to know their status during pregnancy.

Stigmatisation, discrimination and cultural practices hinder these women from seeking treatment, which undermines the prevention, treatment and care of people



Dr Angela El-Adas

(PMTCT) of HIV infection in a just ended three-year project on PMTCT.

The project, carried out jointly by the Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA), National AIDS Control Programme, the Family Health Division, Greater Accra Regional Health Directorate of the Ghana Health Service and the

improving the health status of the citizenry.

The First Lady however called for community involvement, and for men to support their partners to access HIV and reproductive health services such as pap-smear, HIV testing and regular breast examination by health professionals.

commit to reduction of new mother-to-child transmission, the impact of HIV and affected, as well as discrimination against HIV.

World AIDS Day in Ghana was initiated in Kibi in the Eastern

Region to create awareness on the epidemic and the need to step up efforts in prevention, treatment, care and support in Ghana and worldwide.

This year's WAD launch to precede the commemoration of the day on Monday, 1st December, took place on Tuesday, 4th November,

2014 at Ashaiman, Accra.

The Global theme remains "Getting to Zero" with Ghana adopting the sub theme, "Ghana towards an HIV Free Generation through Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV, Safe Sex and Stigma Reduction."