



## Hope for Future Generations

Informing Communities, Improving Lifestyles

## Newsletter

First Quarter, March, 2020

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### THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



Dear Partner,

It is a great opportunity for us here at Hope for Future Generations to share with you our Newsletter for the first Quarter of the year 2020.

In this edition of the HFFG Newsletter, we will share with you stories from some of the various interventions we are implementing with our partners. We are also glad to keep you updated on our engagements in the first three months of the year.

Once again on behalf of the Board, Management, Staff, Volunteers and Beneficiaries of Hope for Future Generations, take a seat and let's journey together. Don't hesitate to log on to [www.hffg.org](http://www.hffg.org) for more stories.

**Cecilia Senoo, Executive Director, Hope for Future Generations**

## Hope for Future Generations donates TV Set to Ningo Health Centre



*An HFFG project officer (In red shirt) in a picture with health official during the presentation.*

As part of the 'Not in Our Name: Tackling Extortion in the Ghanaian Healthcare System' project, Hope For Future Generation has donated a 40- inch Samsung LED TV to the maternity ward of the Ningo Health Centre, in the Ningo-Prampram District of the Greater Accra Region.

The donation was to acknowledge the Health Centre's commitment to clean and transparent practice to reduce cases of extortion.

The TV will be will be a useful screen for health information and other sensitization materials to be projected in the ward and also for entertainment for recovery after childbirth.

Facility Head, Elizabeth Dwamena expressed gratitude on behalf of all the staff and patients to HFFG and the implementing partners of the project. She promised that the hospital and will continue to work hard to eliminate all forms of extortion at the facility.

The "Not in Our Name: Tackling Corruption and Extortion in the Ghanaian Healthcare System Project" is funded by STAR-GHANA, UKAID, DANIDA and the European Union.

It aims to reduce the occurrence of corruption within the private and public healthcare systems through increasing the exposure of corruption and client confidence in healthcare system delivery.



## Hope for Future Generations receives recognition from Gender Ministry



*The Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Hon. Cynthia Mamle Morrison presents the Award to the ED of HFFG. Mrs Cecilia Senoo.*

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, has presented an award to Hope for Future Generations (HFFG) for its supportive role in advancing the wellbeing of women in Ghana.

This recognition was given to HFFG at a Dinner and Awards ceremony held in Accra as part of celebrations to mark this year's International Women's Day. The awards ceremony was to honor and appreciate some individuals and deserving institutions for their immense contributions to the quest for gender equality and women empowerment in Ghana. It was on the theme: 'I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights'.

A citation presented to HFFG by the Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, Hon. Cynthia Mamle Morrison said "Hope for Future Generations has been supportive of all health-related activities of the Department of Gender as well as International Women's Day".

The Ministry congratulated the Executive Director of HFFG, Mrs Cecilia Senoo for her role in helping a lot of women and youth in the national Malaria, HIV and Tuberculosis response.

Hon. Cynthia Mamle Morrison in a keynote address said the awards ceremony is in line with the Ministry's resolve to motivate and honour deserving individuals, institutions and media houses who have contributed to achieving gender equality in Ghana.

The Director for the Department of Gender, Rev. Dr. Comfort Asare mentioned that the ceremony is also to bring to fore the exceptional strides that some young ladies from poor backgrounds have made despite all challenges that confronted them but being able to make it successfully. She therefore called on all other women to strive for success no matter the circumstance they find themselves.

The Executive Director of HFFG, Mrs Cecilia Senoo in a response to the recognition thanked Gender Ministry and the Department of Gender for the recognition, promising HFFG's continuous support to improve the lives of women.

HFFG has over the last 18 years been at the forefront of various community interventions aimed at realizing a nation free of discrimination where women, children and young people have equal opportunities to develop their full potential.

## Coronavirus: Some facts and misconceptions.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the COVID-19 experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Despite a lot of education and information coming from reputable sources like the World Health Organization and the Ghana Health Service on the COVID-19 pandemic, there are still many misconceptions and myths flying around. Now let's explore few facts and misconceptions:

### Facts

- Not all coughs, cold and sore throats are caused by the coronavirus – report early for proper diagnosis
- Staying at least six feet away from other people lessens your chances of catching COVID-19.
- People who have the virus and have not yet shown signs and symptoms can still spread the disease.
- Regular hand washing with soap under running water reduces your chances of contracting COVID-19.
- There is no vaccine for COVID-19 yet.
- 98% of people who get the COVID-19 and report early recover.
- COVID-19 cannot be managed at home - In severe cases, the viral infection moves from the nasal passage and throat to the lungs, where it can cause pneumonia and prove fatal – this cannot be handled at home.
- Don't go to hospital if you have high temperature, cough and sore throat – stay at home and call the emergency helpline 112.
- You don't need money, no National Health Insurance Card – just call for help.


### Misconceptions

- Coronavirus is not a punishment from GOD – God loves and cares for us. Pray but encourage people to call emergency lines 112 for help when they have the symptoms.
- The disease is not for the rich or people who reside in the cities or abroad. Anybody can get COVID-19 including health workers.
- People who die from COVID-19 will be buried – it is not our culture to burn dead people. Don't hide sick people at home.
- It is not true that young people cannot get coronavirus – everybody can get coronavirus if you don't follow the safety measures.
- It is not true that nose masks can save you automatically.
- Drinking alcohol will not protect you from COVID-19 – Alcohol lowers your immune system.
- Garlic, ginger, lemon etc are good for the body when you eat them – but they do not cure COVID-19.


Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak at [www.ghanahealthservice.org/codvid](http://www.ghanahealthservice.org/codvid)

# CORONAVIRUS


## HELP STOP THE SPREAD




WASH YOUR HANDS THOROUGHLY WITH SOAP.




COUGH AND SNEEZE INTO A PAPER TISSUE.




KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE.



KEEP SURFACES CLEAN.



STAY AT HOME.



CALL BEFORE GOING TO THE DOCTOR.

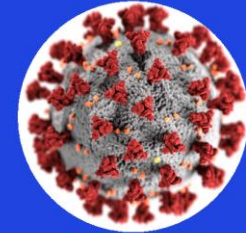
CALL 112 TO REPORT SUSPECTED CASES.

WWW.HFFG.ORG

# VIRUSES


## DON'T STIGMATIZE!

PEOPLE DO



GET THE RIGHT INFORMATION.  
PROVIDE SUPPORT TO  
THOSE AFFECTED.

WWW.HFFG.ORG



## **Hope for Future Generations advocates for removal of barriers limiting women**



International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women – while also marking a call to action for accelerating gender equality. It is celebrated annually on 8 March.

As Ghana joined the rest of the world to mark International Women's Day on the theme: "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights", Hope for Future Generations recommended for the strengthening of laws that support gender equality and address many root cause of discrimination that still curtail women's rights in private and public spheres.

HFFG in a media statement also congratulated Ghanaian women and stakeholders who continue to serve as enablers for women and girls to excel at their respective fields.

HFFG in the statement further called for the quick passage of the long-awaited Affirmative Action Bill, which it said would go a long way to empower more women and end the systematic discrimination and exclusion of women in the decision-making process.

"This year's International Women's Day offers a chance for us as a country to reflect on progress made in ensuring that the fundamental human rights of women and girls are safeguarded at all times. It also a calls to action to accelerate gender equality and challenges us as a country committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end gender-based violence, promote economic justice and promote access to the reproductive health and rights of all women" the statement said.



## HFFG, GIZ, TMA and GRA team up to educate informal sector on tax payment



*ED of HFFG, Cecilia Senoo educates beauticians on the need to pay tax.*

Revenue collection in Ghana is very low. Ghana's tax-to-GDP ratio (2018) of 12.6% is well below the West Africa regional average of 15%, as reported by OECD (2019). Some of the reasons for the low revenue collection include: complexity of the tax law documents and lack of clarity surrounding payment obligations.

Taxpayer education has been identified as one of the key ways to promote voluntary tax compliance, especially with the informal sector which employs about 80% of Ghanaians but records low tax compliance.

Hope for Future Generations, as a consulting partner teamed up with GIZ, Tema Metropolitan Assembly and the Ghana Revenue Authority to engage the informal sector within the Tema Metropolis on the need to pay taxes, and on time.

HFFG Consultants under this initiative trained about 130 key stakeholders from five selected trade associations in the Tema Metropolis, namely: Market Traders Association, Tailors and Dressmakers Association; Hair Beauticians Association, Transport Union as well as the National Fish Processors and Traders Association.

Participants after the training committed to paying their taxes regularly and on time, as it contributes to national development.

## Success Story: Watershed Programme brings joy at Mile 10.5

### Challenge:

Adieyie Mile 10.5 is a mining community located within the Adieyie Sub-District of Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipal in Western Region of Ghana. The sub-district sits on the Watersheds of River Bonsa and River Abonpuni. Part of the area including Mile 10.5 community falls directly within mining concessions.

Mining activities from both legal and illegal operators have destroyed surface water in the entire Municipal area. This has affected people who depend on the rivers for fishing and farming. Though the mining companies provided communities in the area with boreholes, hand dug wells and overhead water tanks, the presence of heavy metal such as iron and mercury affected water quality (particularly the taste and colour) of these WASH facilities at some point; making access to affordable and safe drinking water impossible for community members. The same mining company which provided WASH facilities for communities in the area also served as an evaluator for water quality testing and this made communities uncomfortable. The fear was that the boreholes and hand dug wells may not be safe as expected to be.

### Intervention:

Hope for Future Generations, an implementing partner for Simavi on the Watershed Programme carried out series of Community and District level interventions. These interventions were carried out in 15-Communities including Adieyie Mile 10.5 community. The interventions created opportunity for regular face to face engagement between citizens and local government authorities in Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipal Assembly to discuss sustainable Water Access, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) service.



*Project team visited old and Mercury filled Borehole at Mile 10.5*



*Hon. Kennedy Gilbert Asmah, the MCE of Tarkwa in a community meeting at Mile 10.5 to address WASH issues*

The Watershed programme is a 5 year (2016 – 2020) strategic partnership between IRC, Wetlands International, Simavi, Akvo and Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The aim of the intervention is to deliver improvements in governance and management of WASH as well as Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) services and to strengthen the capacity of national civil society organizations to lobby and advocate government and other WASH duty-bearers - towards measurable improvements in the quality and sustainability of WASH services.

The programme deployed strategies such as sensitization of Communities on existing WASH policies, development and use of scorecards for lobby/advocacy and regular Community Interface meetings between WASH duty bearers and rights holders to dialogue for improved WASH services.



## Watershed Programme brings joy at Mile 10.5



*An HFFG Project Officer at the new drinking water site*

During the 3rd and 4th quarter of 2019, the Tarkwa Municipal Assembly followed up and identified mercury content in the borehole for the people of Mile 10.5 to be higher than the standard quantity for human consumption; this type of drinking water could cause kidney damage or affect the nervous system. The Tarkwa Municipal Assembly then awarded contract for construction on a new borehole with Mercury Treatment Plant for the community.

### **Result:**

The people of Adieyie Mile 10.5 Community has benefited from Mercury Treatment Plant funded by AngloGold Iduaprim Mines through Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipal Assembly. This process was led by the people of Mile 10.5 and it was facilitated by the Watershed (empowering citizens) programme. Currently, the Water and Sanitation Committee has been trained by the Assembly to manage the facility.

*‘We are happy with the Mercury Treatment Plant We thank the Watershed Programme partners and the Tarkwa - Nsuaem Municipal Assembly. The Assembly has done well by building the treatment plant for us. We are grateful to HFFG,’ says Nana Ibrahim, the chief of Mile 10.5.*



*Nana Ibrahim (Pink Shirt) and an HFFG Project Officer at the new drinking water site*



## Hope for Future Generations leads Malaria Advocates to DG of Ghana Health Service



*The Deputy Director General of the Ghana Health Service, Dr Anthony Ofosu (far right) receives a communique from YL4H Ghana*

Youth Leaders for Health Ghana (YL4HGhana), a group of eleven young advocates committed to increased domestic resource allocation to the national malaria response and the strengthening of Ghana's Health Systems in February called on the Deputy Director General of the Ghana Health Service, Dr. Anthony Ofosu in Accra.

The advocates in the company of the Executive Director of HFFG, Mrs Cecicila Senoo briefed the Deputy Director General on their recent advocacy training in Ethiopia and also solicited for the support of the Ghana Health Service to enable them advocate for an increased domestic resource allocation to the national malaria response and the strengthening of Ghana's Health Systems.

The youth leaders presented a communique and a copy of their work-plan to the Deputy Director General.

Dr. Anthony Ofosu commended the Ghanaian youth leaders, pledging the Ghana Health Service's support for the advocates at both the national and the regional level.

The Youth Leaders for Health Program is a joint initiative being implemented in Ghana by RESULTS UK, Hope for Future Generations (Ghana), WACI Health, CISMAT-SL (Sierra Leone), and Health Promotion Tanzania-HDT with support from Comic Relief and in partnership with Malaria No More UK.

The youth leaders have so far presented communiques to the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commissioner, His Excellency Kwesi Quartey and the Ambassador of Ghana to Ethiopia, Her Excellency Amma Twum-Amoah, in their bid to help halve the number of malaria deaths by 2023 through increased domestic funding.



*The Youth Leaders also presented a communique to the Ambassador of Ghana to Ethiopia, Her Excellency Amma Twum-Amoah*



*YL4H Ghana*



## HFFG Staff converge in Accra for annual review Meeting



HFFG believes that members of staff are an important asset of the organization. The successful accomplishment of our interventions and our goals rest on their shoulders.

In February this year, some selected staff across the regions of Ghana converged in Accra for an annual review-meeting. The purpose of the meeting to enable the staff share ideas, evaluate performances and re-energize to make more long-lasting impact in the communities we work.

Staff were taken through HFFG's strategic plan which provides the operational framework for HFFG's institutional and programme direction from 2018-2022.

The Executive Director of HFFG, Mrs Cecilia Senoo encouraged staff to abide by the policies of the organization in all their operations. She also applauded the staff for their support over the years.

Various project leads also shared updates from their programs, as well as work plans for the year 2020.

*Members of Staff gave updates on their respective projects*





## Young Health Advocates Ghana, The Journey So Far...



In Ghana, adolescents and young people constitute a growing share of Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV). Although, the country has made progress in its HIV and AIDS response, the recent slight surge in the disease among young people is a cause of worry. The lack of treatment literacy and dedicated adolescent friendly services for those living with HIV, stigmatization in schools and challenges in adhering to Anti-retroviral drugs regimen even makes it worse. As part of efforts to support Young Persons Living with HIV (YPLHIV), Hope for Future Generations (HFFG) through WAPCAS/The Global Fund New Funding Model II project has adopted effective and innovative measures to contribute to better HIV response by empowering YPLHIV to make a difference.

In February, 2018, HFFG held its first meeting with 14 young people who were the first members from Greater and Central Regions to be a part of a youth organization that seeks to educate, empower and support young people living with HIV. The main aim of the organisation, Youth Health Advocates Ghana (YHAG) is to give YPLHIV a forum to voice out their concerns and advocate to be included in the decision-making process. Within the span of one (1) year and through the support of HFFG, YHAG currently has expanded its membership to a total of 6 regions namely; Greater Accra, Ashanti, Central, Eastern, Volta and the Northern regions. YHAG currently has a total membership of over 100 young people across these regions.

HFFG has built the capacity of these young advocates in leadership skills, drug adherence, combat against stigma and discrimination, psychosocial counselling, advocacy and ensuring their part of decision making processes to the HIV response. These trained advocates are in turn empowering their follow peers through support groups network building and linkages to care. HFFG has also created the opportunity and exposed these advocates both internally and externally, notably amongst them are:

- Participation of young advocates in INTEREST conference in Accra
- Attending Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) meeting for the first time and advocating for the inclusion of YPLHIV at the policy-makers table.
- Attending a youth workshop in Brazil.

- Participating in a meeting in Zimbabwe to study their treatment support strategy for adolescents.
- Attending several stakeholder meetings in advocating for the Global Fund replenishment and having our capacity built in diverse fields such as malaria, non-communicable disease, immunization etc.
- Participation in an initiative to increase domestic funding in malaria and attending a Youth Leaders for Health training in Ethiopia in January 2020
- Young advocates participated and made inputs during the development of Ghana National Strategic Plan meeting at Koforidua and succeeded in including the needs of young PLHIV to the plan.

In addition, during the 2019 National World AIDS Day celebration in Ghana, these young people were given a platform to speak out, a speech written and read by these advocates clearly demanded that there is a need to increase the education of health workers on how to cater for the adolescents in the facilities, education to school authorities and supervisors for refills at the facility or take tests. This advocacy brought them closer to the seat of Government where the Chief of Staff at the Presidency, the AG of Ghana AIDS Commission made a commitment of working closer with them and indicated their doors are open anytime to support them.

In order to increase visibility, share information and learn from other countries around the Globe, YHAG has created a social media platform for the organization on Twitter @yhag20 and Instagram @yhag20.

### **Lessons learned**

Involvement of young persons living with HIV is fundamental to achieving the 90-90-90 HIV targets and their contributions to the national response cannot be underestimated. Capacity building programs carried out have exposed YPLHIV to HIV programming in Ghana. They are well informed about adherence, medications, stigma and human rights violations leading to reduced fears. Engagement with YPLHIV has revealed their desire liberation to be able to disclose their status to partners without fear of stigmatization and abandonment. The establishment of the advocacy awareness network has led to them advocating for their involvement in decision making processes concerning HIV, development of content specific interventions and differentiated packages of care delivery for young people.

### **Acknowledgements**

**The following persons and organisations have been very instrumental in the lives of our young advocates and they have contributed in diverse ways to their achievements. They are grateful to the support.**

- UNAIDS Country Director, Dr Angela Trendon-Mbonde has been a strong pillar of knowledge and support
  - Gifty Lemboe, Rev. Azumah, Gifty Tokonu for your tremendous support

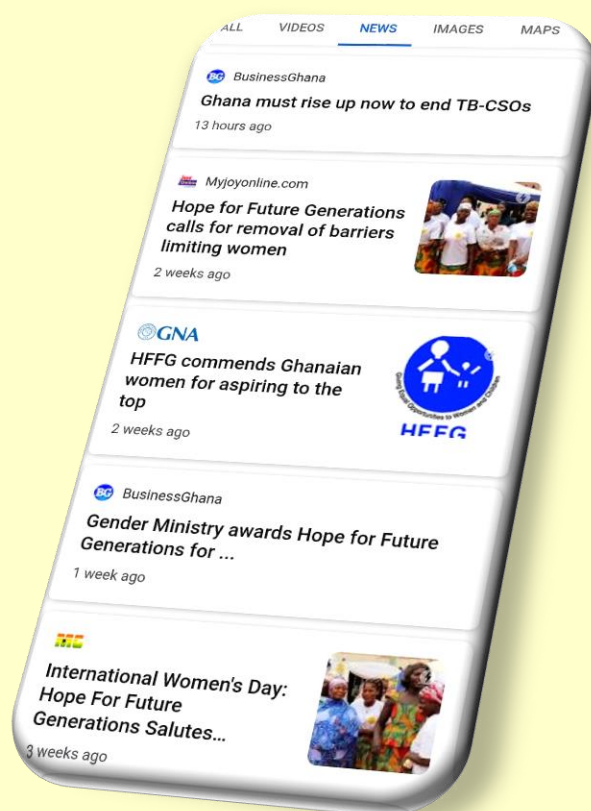
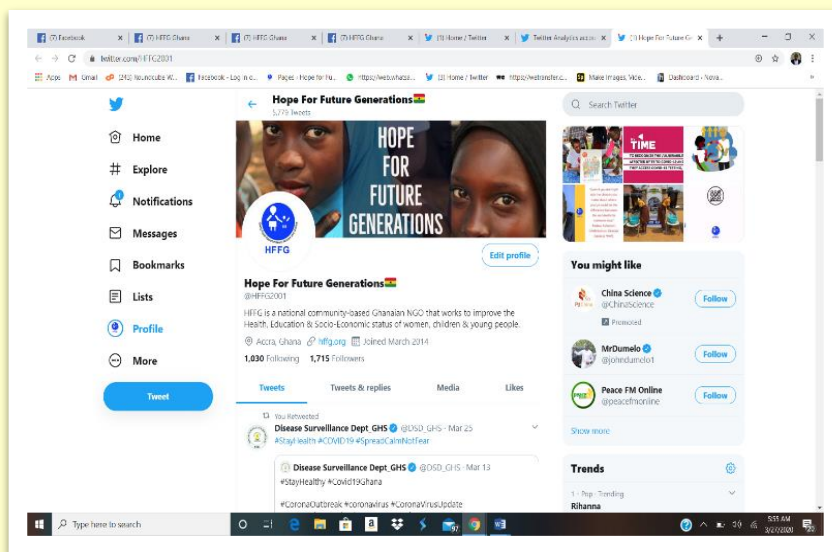


## HFFG IN THE MEDIA

HFFG during the quarter was very active on our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube, pages. Cumulatively, we reached about **145,000** people with posts on our project activities as well as campaigns and advocacy messages.

Our most active social media platform was Twitter, where Our **117** tweets reached over **120,000** people within the quarter. **3,004** people visited our twitter profile. We were mentioned **289** times by individuals and organizations on their twitter profile. We have had **172** new followers since January.

*Hope for future generations appeared in both online and Traditional media in over 20 times within the first Quarter of the year 2020*  
*Media slots were used for advocacy campaigns and the commemoration of International Days.*



*HFFG was on Uniiq FM to talk about Cervical Cancer*





## Golden Line Partners Celebrate Women on IWD at Abreshia



Golden Line Ghana Consortium partners including: SIMAVI, Solidaridad, Healthy Entrepreneurs, Hope For Future Generations and Presbyterian Relief Services & Development marked this year's International Women's Day with a durbar at Abreshia in the Wassa Amenfi East Municipal of the Western Region.

On behalf of the Ghana GLP Consortium, Mrs Irene Owusu-Poku, National Programme Coordinator highlighted some of the structural, system and social barriers that limits women's participation in decision making at all levels not forgetting the value additions women bring in society.

She called on Government to pass the affirmative action bill and also allocate at least 30% of mining concessions to women.

The event was preceded by a health screening exercise.

Municipal Chief Executive of Wassa Amenfi East Municipal, Hon. Helena Appiah delivered a speech on the role of Government on the journey to an enabled world.

The GLP is working towards economic empowerment of women living in and around Artisanal and Small – Scale Gold Mines (ASGM) in Ghana.

About 1549 women from HFFG implementing communities including Abreshia have been supported and economically empowered under the initiative.

Chief of Abreshia Nana Frimpong thanked the Golden Line Consortium for empowering the women in his community.

Women beneficiaries under the Golden Line Programme displayed variety of products they have made as a results of the business skills training they received under the project.



*A GLP beneficiary displays some products made as a results of the business skills training they received under the initiative.*



*There was a drama and culture display by the Abreshia Village Savings and Loans Association.*





## ***Giving Equal Opportunities to Women and Children***



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[HFFGenGhana](https://www.facebook.com/HFFGenGhana)



[hffgghana](https://www.instagram.com/hffgghana)



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