



CHPS FOR LIFE PROJECT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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CHPS for Life in Brief

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Introduction:

Strengthening community-based health services focusing on the Life-course approach in the Upper West, Upper East, and Northern Regions preferably called 'CHPS for Life' is a technical cooperation project between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the government of Ghana through the Ghana Health Service (GHS). The project seeks to build a resilient community health system in Ghana that meets the needs of all populations by strengthening the Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) programme in the three northern regions of the country. The implementing agency of the project is the Ghana Health Service with funding and technical support from JICA.

Overall goal:

Universal health coverage (UHC) is promoted by improving access and utilization of primary health care through Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) in the Upper West, Upper East, and Northern Regions.

Project purpose:

Community-based health services focusing on the Life-course approach (LCA) are strengthened in the Upper West, Upper East, and Northern Regions.

Project outputs:

0. The project is monitored and evaluated periodically, and good practices and lessons learned are shared with other regions and GHS-HQ for scaling-up.
1. The capacity of CHOs and health management teams (SDHT, DHMT and RHMT) to plan and implement CHPS policy by national standards is strengthened.
2. Community activities of CHPS are strengthened.
3. Governance of CHPS by local government and stakeholders is strengthened.
4. Life-course approach is addressed in the minimum package of CHPS.

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Implementation strategies:

1. Capacity and systems strengthening to bridge CHPS implementation, capacity and systems gaps between the three regions in the north.

Focus is on:

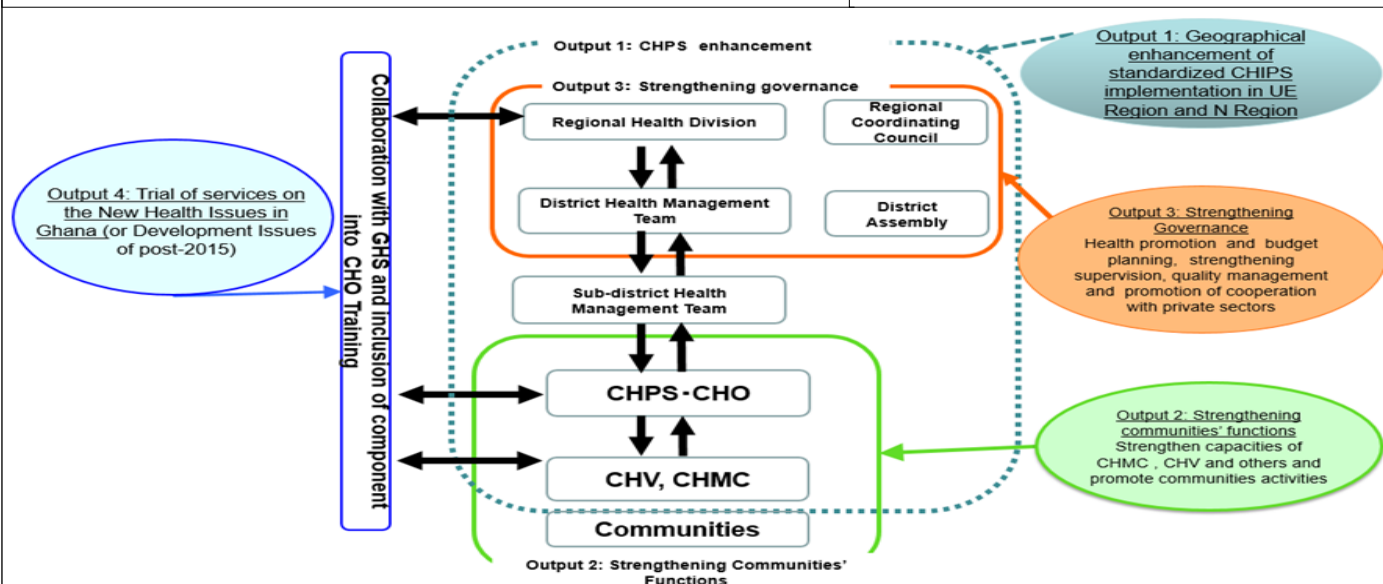
- Creating avenues for planning, implementation, evaluation and learning among the three regions in the North.
- Strengthening human resource capacity by increasing the number and quality of trainers in the three regions.
- Scaling up CHPS based on standardized tools, materials and systems across the three regions in line with national guidelines.

2. Introducing the Life-course approach:

- Strengthening CHO and SDHT capacity on the Life-course approach to community health.
- Improving quality and incorporating Life-course into CHPS services to meet the needs of all age cohorts.
- Strengthening health promotion activities for the prevention and early detection of NCDs.

3. Interventions at the community:

- Capacity building for community level structures needed for increased support for CHPS i.e. CHMCs and CHVs.
- Direct interventions in selected communities to stimulate community self-help initiatives for CHPS.
- Support to cascade community activities in adjoining communities through peer learning and support among CHOs.



Activities and Target Levels of the Project

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Latest News

CHPS for Life officially launched and first executive meeting held

The official launching of CHPS for Life was done at the Accra City Hotel in Accra, Ghana on November 28, 2017. The occasion was used to announce the commencement of the project to the public through the press. The outline of the project, strategies for implementation, management and operational set up were shared with stakeholders. The event was chaired by Dr. Ebenezer Appiah-Denkyira, the immediate past Director General (DG) of the Ghana Health Service (GHS). At least 58 key stakeholders including the Embassy of Japan, JICA Ghana office, GHS Headquarters, Regional Health Directorates of the Upper West, Upper East, and Northern Regions and development partners were in attendance. In particular, the DG of GHS, Dr. Anthony Nsiah Asare, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan, Mr. Koji Tomita and Senior Representative at JICA Ghana office, Ms. Maki Ozawa were at the event.

Later that day, the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting, which is the highest decision making body of the project was held. Two important milestones were achieved at the meeting; (1) The meeting discussed and approved the project work plan for the first term (July 2017 to June 2019). (2) It also approved proposed modifications to the Project Design Matrix. In addition, the progress of the project activities and upcoming events were shared.



Group Photo at the launch of CHPS for Life at the Accra City Hotel in Accra Ghana

A project like CHPS for Life is very important for us to take advantage of for the expansion of CHPS services to the entire family. If we can attend to the needs of everybody in the family, we certainly will be achieving universal health coverage (UHC). It is interesting that, the project is kicking off at a time the government has placed preventive care high on the national health agenda. This is the opportunity to synchronize maternal and child health with NTDs and the health of the aged. There is a plan to roll out wellness centers from 2018 where we will provide a comprehensive package of preventive services for everybody. Even before the CHPS for Life project enters the mid-year of implementation, we should be able to start sharing the best practices and



Joint Coordination Committee (JCC Meeting at Accra City Hotel in Accra)



Ghana Health Service and the 3 regions are the owners of the project. The expectation is for the project to set up a solid foundation for community health. Ghana is one of the priority countries for support from the government of Japan. The support for the achievement of Universal Health Coverage goes to two other countries as well namely: Kenya and Senegal and among the three, Ghana is the most active.



Dr. Anthony Nsiah Asare
Director General of Ghana Health Service
addresses participants at the project
launch

knowledge to expand the benefits. I am confident Ghana can achieve UHC before 2030 hence I charge the Regional Directors of the project implementing regions-Northern, Upper East and Upper West to show leadership and commitment by rallying their staff to ensure the project succeeds.

Ghana is a priority country for Japan. Because of that, for many years Japan has been collaborating with Ghana and through JICA, there has been a lot of work in many areas for development in Ghana. The government of Japan is happy and will continue to collaborate with Ghana. Also for the government of Japan, health and medical care is a priority that is why at the TICAD VI in Nairobi last



Ms. Maki Ozawa
Senior Representative of JICA Ghana
speaks about CHPS for Life at the launch



Mr. Koji Tomiya
Deputy Chief of Mission/Counselor of the
Embassy of Japan delivers a message at the
launch

year, one of the key areas was health resilience. So, this project is very important to both Japan and Ghana because the project is going to address health needs at the grassroots. The people in the communities need health services and it is important to address their health needs. Previously, the support through JICA in Ghana for CHPS was focusing on maternal and child health but this support is going to cover everybody in this case young people, elderly and children will all benefit. Through this project, I hope that, we can reach the grassroots and improve a lot of things to achieve universal health coverage (UHC).

Universal health coverage (UHC) is a broad target and JICA after years of support to Ghana especially in the Upper West Region and following Ghana's progress in building a solid foundation for reaching UHC but as you see, CHPS in Ghana has targeted mainly maternal and child health but with the initiation of this project, CHPS services will be expanded to actively cover the family using the Life-course approach. We want GHS to own the project, so that what we are doing does not look like it is something separate but that, it is part of the national scheme. This project is another opportunity for us to work with Ghana and the health service and everybody for the improvement of the society. If you look at the details of activities in the project, you know we can expect a lot of things.

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Meetings to Define and Determine the Scope of Activities on LCA held

Two meetings have been held on the concept of Life-course Approach (LCA). The first and second LCA concept meetings were held on October 17, 2017 and November 29, 2017 respectively with participation from the main divisions of GHS Headquarters and the Upper West (UW), Upper East (UE) and Northern (N) regions. The concept and interventions plan of the project were discussed. The inclusion of the Sub-District level in the training target and discussion of possible activities were also discussed.



CHPS for Life holds Strategic Meeting on Pre-service Training/ District CHO Orientation in UWR

The strategic meeting was held on November 13, 2017 with the participation of key managers of the UW RHA and all the District Directors of Health Services in the region. The Principals of the Jirapa Community Health Nurses Training College and the Lawra and Wa Nurses Training Colleges were also in attendance.

The status of implementation of pre-service training and challenges were discussed. It was established that the theory aspect of the pre-service training was continuously conducted as a part of the official Curriculum with the materials which the Project prepared.



CHPS for Life Builds Capacity of CHPS Coordinators & Health Information Officers to improve CHPS Data Quality and Management

The first CHPS database meeting was conducted for the UE region on November 1, 2017 at the Regional Health Directorate In-Service Training Centre at Bolgatanga. The one for the Northern Region was done on November 2, 2017 in Tamale. The events brought together all CHPS Coordinators and District Health Information Officers from the districts. Staff of the Regional CHPS and Health Information Units also participated in the meetings.

Participants were taken through CHPS data collection, entry and analysis of the CHPS data. At the end of the training, templates of the CHPS database were distributed to all the districts for initial data collection.



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Work Plan Development Workshop in Tamale

The workshop to develop the project workplan was organized on October 26 and 27, 2017 at UDS, Tamale campus. Participants included DHMTs and RHMTs of each region and JICA Ghana office. Points of discussion included introduction of the project, strategies and steps to be taken at each level. Detailed activities and target group of each output were also discussed and finalized.



UWR group working on their work plan at the workshop



Group Photo of participants at the workshop

Upcoming Events

June 2018	Baseline Study Report Writing
June 2018	Study Tour in Upper West Region
June 2018	2 nd Joint Coordination Committee Meeting
July 2018	Pre-service Strategic Meeting for Upper East and Northern Regions
July 2018	ToT and CHO Fresher Training in Upper West Region
August 2018	Training on Referral System in Upper West, Upper East and Northern Regions

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