

NEWSLETTER

2nd International Learning Visit to Japan organized

The second study tour to Japan on the theme “Life Course Approach and Community Health” was conducted from 9th to 22nd November 2019. Six staffs of the Ghana Health Service comprising three Headquarters staff and three others, one each from the Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions participated in the tour. A Health Programme Officer at the JICA Ghana office also joined the team. The team understudied the Japanese model with the view to strengthening the life-course approach to health service delivery in Ghana

Following the tour, participants developed action plans to address specific issues in their places of work. These include; ‘Papa mama class’ for male involvement in support for pregnant women, ‘Smart outpatient department’ to provide continuous care and support for life style diseases, and ‘Pinkoro activities for all ages’ such as consumption of healthy diet based on locally grown staples and regular daily exercise.



Host hospital doctors receiving a gift from study tourists

The follow up to monitor implementation of action plans and to integrate same into the project activities will be done bi-annually. The overview of the study tour in Japan and the progress of action plans were presented during JCC.

Introduction

The aim of the CHPS for Life project is to contribute to accelerating the attainment of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) through CHPS implementation in Ghana. It focuses on using cost effective ways to create a resilient health system that responds to the health needs of people of all ages. The five-year project has gone through two and half years of implementation and it is expected to end in July 2022.

This 4th edition of the project newsletter chronicles some of the major project events that took place after the publication of the 3rd edition in December 2019. Articles contained in this edition are: Second study tour to Japan; Capacity building on LCA in UWR; 5th Joint Coordination Committee Meeting in UWR; Introduction of COVID-19 prevention protocols in project activities; and stakeholder opinions about the project.



A participant having a practical feel of an old aged jacket



A group photograph of study tour team, project members and a facilitator

A Second Training Workshop on Life-course Approach to Health Service Provision Successfully Conducted in The Upper West Region

The CHPS for Life project successfully conducted the 2nd LCA training workshop over a four-day period from 2nd to 5th March, 2020. The training aimed at strengthening the capacity of health staff to deliver quality health services to people of all ages to address the increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases.

The training involved 48 Community Health Officers (CHOs), 12 Sub-District Leaders and Nutrition Officers from selected District Health Management Teams (DHMTs) in the Upper West Region. In addition, 8 observers including a representative from Ghana Health Service Headquarters (GHS HQ) and 17 facilitators were involved in the training.

Trainees were taken through the seven (7) modules and accompanying demonstrations together with practices that make up the training package. The modules are: 1) Introduction to Life-course Approach, 2) Maternal and Child Health, 3) Care for School-aged Children, 4) Adolescent Health and Development, 5) Adult and Aged Health, 6) Channels for Providing Care to All Age Cohorts, and 7) Community Engagement for Life-course Approach.

Among other things, trainees practised the correct and effective use of the Combined Maternal and Child Health Record Book, weight & height measurement together with BMI calculation, waist circumference measurement, using the healthy lifestyle assessment questionnaire as well as the interpretation of the results of these measurements/assessments.

At the end, participants were very happy with the training and showed a lot of enthusiasm in providing services using the life-course approach.



Group photo of trainees and trainers



Height measurement demonstration

CHPS for Life Organizes 5th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) Meeting in Wa, Upper West Region



A group photograph of stakeholders after the 5th JCC meeting

The Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) is the highest decision-making meeting of the Project. The 5th JCC meeting was held on 23rd January 2020 from 9:00 to 14:20 at the Blue Hill Hotel in Wa. It was chaired by the Project Director, Dr. Patrick Kuma-Aboagye, Director General (DG) of the Ghana Health Service. In all, ninety-six (96) persons were in attendance. It was also the kick off meeting of the second term of the Project. Regional Director of UER, UWR, NER, NR and Deputy Regional Director of SR attended the meeting.

The Project presented the activity plan and strategy of the second term by emphasizing main exit strategy such as pre-service training district-based CHO orientation and DHMT review meeting. The participants of Japan study tour reported on the Life-course Approach related activities in Japan. All participants eagerly discussed the current challenges and exchanged information for the improvement of the system.

Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) Materials Developed to Disseminate Life-course Approach Concept

Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) is one of the approaches being adopted by the CHPS for Life project to promote and strengthen healthy lifestyles in communities. SBCC materials are essential for several reasons; most health conditions both communicable and non-communicable arise from lifestyle choices and in order to promote healthy living across all ages, significant social and behavior changes are required. Also, the operationalization of LCA in service delivery in Ghana is still evolving and these materials would be used to build the capacity of the relevant cadre of health workers which includes Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), Community Health Management Committees (CHMCs), Community Health Officers (CHOs), Sub-district Health Teams (SDHTs) etc to deliver quality health services in relation to the LCA.

The CHPS for Life project in collaboration with the Ghana Health Service (GHS) developed video clips targeting essential services for all age cohorts. This is to introduce and sensitize the general public on the LCA related activities. These videos were officially approved by the SBCC Technical Review Committee (TRC) of the Ghana Health Service Headquarters (GHS-HQ) for dissemination through Television broadcast, Social Networking Services (SNS) and for use at the community level education, sensitization and dissemination structures .

The project is also in the process of developing a flipchart to be used for the capacity building of health staff at the CHPS and Sub-district levels . Approval by the SBCC TRC is expected before finalization in 2020.



A snapshot from the video content development of the LCA materials



Pre-testing materials developed at the community level

Implementation of COVID-19 Prevention Protocols at the Workplace

The coronavirus disease outbreak (COVID-19) which was declared a Public Health Emergency of international concern has now spread to many countries. While a lot is still unknown about the virus that causes COVID-19, we do know that it is transmitted through direct contact with respiratory droplets of an infected person generated through coughing; spitting and sneezing. Individuals can also be infected from touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and touching their face (e.g., eyes, nose and mouth).

While the virus continues to spread, evidence shows that adopting simple pragmatic measures such as social distancing, wearing of facemasks and observing basic hygiene principles of hand washing or use of hand sanitizers, are able to break the chain of transmission.

As nations make efforts to re-open their economies and restart activities following the lock-downs that were imposed at the beginning of the outbreak, it is important that individuals, communities and organizations adopt preventive actions to stem the transmission of the virus.

In view of this, the GHS/JICA CHPS for Life project developed a simple guide/checklist for infection control for meetings and programs which has since been enforced.




Temperature checks at a meeting venue

... (From Page 3) **Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) Materials Developed to Disseminate Life-Course Approach Concept**

Some of the action areas includes the serving of packed meals, ensuring appropriate distancing of participants, taking of temperature and contact details of participants, daily health check of project staff and their family members, the provision of face masks, hand sanitizers, soap, rubbing alcohol, tissues, plastic bags for waste, just to mention a few.

Additionally, the project in an attempt to sensitize and educate the public on some of the safety protocols developed a short educational video on proper hand washing in consultation with Ghana Health Service (GHS) which has since been shared with the service and uploaded on to YouTube and can be accessed through the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) address or scanning the QR code as shown below:

Title	Source	URL	QR Code
Hand washing video	JICA CHPS for LIFE Project	https://youtu.be/Xn7_5V3Ry7I	

Stakeholder Opinions



Mr. Andrews, Health Desk Officer,
UE RCC

The HIAP process has been able to bring stakeholders including Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs), District Assemblies (DAs), Regional and District Health Teams (DHMTs) together to improve decision making on health. Previously, these decentralised departments rarely came together except during emergencies. Through the process, leaders of the RCC/DA and RHMT/DHMTs have partnered to improve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the project intervention areas.

We in the RCC/DAs are beginning to understand the real problems in the health sector whilst our counterparts in health are getting to understand some of the decisions we take in the interest of all.

To ensure the sustainability of the process, the RPCU at the regional level and the DPCU at the district level will follow this engagement and regularise it.

The project introduced the strategy, developed key formats and trained stakeholders on them”.



Dr. Chrysantus Kubio, RDHS,
Savannah Region.

“The project’s structure and activities are quite unique and impressive. Its system strengthening aspects are particularly unique as it seeks to build the capacities of regional and district health teams. Through the project’s efforts, various levels of health management have come to have a broader and better understanding of the CHPS concept.

The project’s focus on CHO training is worth mentioning. All districts in the region have benefitted from the CHO training programs organized by the project. Through these trainings, CHOs have been produced for a number of CHPS zones and has increased the number of functional CHPS zones in the region. The CHO training as implemented by the project, which is done using the harmonized CHO training materials, has produced a core of competent CHOs with the requisite community engagement knowledge. This has improved on CHPS functionality in the Region and is gradually improving on community participation in health.

The training and use of Regional and District Officers as facilitators for CHO trainings ensures that at all times the Region can independently organize CHO trainings without having to fall on external persons.

The CHPS database system has greatly improved on CHPS data capture, providing real time accurate CHPS data at all times. This has greatly improved decision making on CHPS”.

COVID 19 IS REAL! , FOLLOW ALL THE NECESSARY PROTOCOLS TO KEEP YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE.

Follow the Link below or scan the QR code to learn more on Covid 19 (Souce; WHO) :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1APwq1df6Mw&feature=emb_title

