



**REPORT ON OUTREACH  
AT WESTERN NORTH  
REGION, SEFWI WIAWSO.**

11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> of September 2021

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Ghana Hemophilia Society (G.He.S) is devoted to breaking the shackles of hemophilia on affected persons, their families and nationwide through an outreach to educate, create awareness, identify more cases and train healthcare professionals on the care and management of hemophilia.

On the 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> of September 2021, one of such programs was organized at the Western North Region, Sefwi Wiawso.

## **PREPARATIONS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

On the 11<sup>th</sup>, a three-member team (one driver and two project officers) from the Ghana Hemophilia Society set off from Accra at 1pm and arrived at Sefwi Wiawso at 11pm where the team lodged at Kenroses Hotel.

On Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> of September, the team set off from the hotel at 7:30am to Bekwai where we met a representative from NCCE, Mr. Patrick Nuako who led us to eight churches in order to create awareness. Below are the churches visited

- Assemblies of God
- Christ Apostolic Church
- Hour of Glory Gospel Chapel
- Roman Catholic
- Ebenezer Baptist
- Agape Baptist
- The Lighthouse Chapel
- The Church of Pentecost

In all these churches, we educated the congregation on the signs and symptoms of hemophilia and announced a slated date for the free screening at the Sefwi Wiawso Municipal Hospital. It was amazing to see how the mention of hemophilia sounded new to many people. Many questions were asked about the disease and appropriate answers were given. Again, we encouraged them to spread the news to their families to also come for the screening. Many people from the congregation suggested that the screening be done in Sefwi Bekwai too.

Below are pictures of some of the churches visited;







By the time we finished with the eighth church, it was 2.00pm. We then left Bekwai to Sefwi Wiawso to have lunch and continue with our outreach. At 4.00pm, we took a stroll around Sefwi Wiawso and talked with people about the disease. We returned to the hotel at 7.00pm.

Below are some pictures;



On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September, the driver alone set off at 5:30am to Kumasi in order to meet the executive director of Ghana Hemophilia society (Dr. Nurudeen Mohammed) and Limmy Sarpong to bring them to Sefwi Wiawso. Meanwhile the two project officers (Christiana Angmor & Rahamatu Adams) set off from the hotel at 7.30am to the municipal Hospital. At the hospital, we met Mr. Sarkodie, an Auditor who took us to see the medical superintendent. The medical superintendent was not around so we met with one doctor in charge called Dr. Oduro who assured us of their support. We also met Mr. Joseph, the person in charge of the laboratory who took us to see their Lab since the screening was going to take place there. We got assistance from one security man to tie the banner at the hospital's entrance.

From the hospital, we went to the municipal assembly to meet the District Health Director to inform him about our presence in the town. He was not around so we met his administrator instead who told us that they had not received a copy of our letter from their regional director. We immediately called the administrative manager at the regional director's office and she forwarded their copy to them.

We then proceeded to the office of the NCCE to arrange for the information Van after which we went to Bekwai hospital to make enquiries concerning their lab. The Bekwai hospital did not



have a laboratory so the doctor took us to a private laboratory called Nana Amoako Diagnostics to inform them about the screening. Fortunately, the private Lab. Agreed to give us the necessary assistance. We went to one radio station called Lord FM to book appointment for the next day. We then left Bekwai back to Sefwi Wiawso where we visited the Nursing Training School.

At the Nursing school, we had a meeting with the administrator who told us the students were on revision so it would be difficult to bring the student body together to educate them on hemophilia. He therefore advised that in future, the organization should send them a notice earlier to allow them to also prepare for us. We thanked him and left for the hotel for Lunch.

A group picture with the team at Nana Amoako Diagnostics Laboratory at Bekwai.



By 2.30pm, we got to the hotel and our director together with Limmy Sarpong had arrived. We proceeded to lunch after which we gave the director the necessary updates. At 4.30pm, the driver and the project officers left the hotel to liberty FM to book an appointment for the next day. At Liberty FM, the booking was successful as we were given 9.30am for Tuesday. We then went to two information centers in two areas called Kesstown and Newtown respectively. At these centers, we educated the individuals in charge about the disease and need to announce the screening day to the public. They were very cooperative and assured us that they would do the announcement three times daily.



On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, the driver again set off at 5.00am to Kumasi to meet the project team/ facilitators from the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) so as to bring them to Sefwi Wiawso for the training on Wednesday. At 7:30am, the project officers together with the director and Limmy Sarpong went to Lord FM in Bekwai because we had an appointment at 8.00am. When we got to Lord FM, we joined the host in the recording studio who interviewed the team about our mission in western North. The director, Limmy Sarpong and Christiana Angmor gave the necessary answers whilst Rahamatu Adams took pictures of the interview. They also announced the date for the free screening, the two venues for the exercise and urged the public to come out in their numbers to screen. The interview ended at 9.00am and we headed back to Sefwi Wiawso since there was another interview at liberty FM at 9.30am.

At Liberty FM, the interview was successful. The host asked about the mission of G.H.S in western north and the team gave appropriate answers. By 10.00am, the interview had ended and the team went to sunset FM to find out if we could get another interview session. At sunset FM, the team was asked to come back in the evening since an appointment was not booked. The team then went to the Municipal Hospital where Limmy Sarpong asked for their consulting room registers. we looked through many registers in order to trace patients who somehow had bleeding disorders so as to call them to come for the screening. We left the municipal hospital at 2.30pm. The project team had also arrived by this time.

Below are some pictures taken at the various radio stations.







At 3.30pm the project officers went to meet with the NCCE (National Commission for Civic Education) where a Van was released for us. The first place we went to was the market since it was market day in Sefwi Wiawso. The project officers and one representative from the NCCE shared flyers and educated people about hemophilia and the screening. Another representative sitting in the Van gave the announcement whilst the Van was moving slowly around. From the market, the van roamed in various areas to create awareness.













The training of Healthcare professionals came off on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, at Kenroses Hotel, Sefwi Wiawso. The program began with the arrival of invited guest, participants and project team. The project officers aided with the registration of participants. Miss Christiana Angmor was the MC for the program. Our project team included Dr. Emma Serwaa Gyawu (Doctor) Cedelle Andoh (Physiotherapist), Patricia Aboagye (Biomedical Scientist), Limmy Sarpong (Nurse) and Ellen Oduro (Nurse).





At 9.00am, a documentary on hemophilia by the Ghana Hemophilia Society was played. Limmy Sarpong gave the opening prayer at 9.20am after which the M.C. introduced the executive director of the Ghana Hemophilia Society. He gave a short address and welcomed everyone once again to the program. At 10.00am, Dr. Emma enlightened the participants about the causes, symptoms and management hemophilia for 40 minutes after which the floor was opened for questions. There was a coffee break at 11.00am after which the participants broke into groups for the second session of the program.



Participants taking a pre-test on hemophilia.

Nurse Limmy Sarpong started discussion with the nurses and midwives whereas the doctors met with Dr. Emma Serwaa Gyawu. The Physiotherapists had their discussion with Dr. Cedelle Andoh and the biomedical scientists met with Dr. Patricia Aboagye. There were printed slides for all the various groups. At 2.00pm, the group sessions were over and it was time for lunch.





A picture of Limmy Sarpong facilitating the nurses.



A pic of Dr. Patricia Aboagye facilitating the Biomedical Scientists.





A picture of Dr. Emma Serwaa Gyawu facilitating the doctors.



A picture of Dr. Cedelle Andoh facilitating the Physiotherapists.





Everyone got together for the closing remarks, which was said by the director of G.H.S. Certificates were then issued to participants, and group pictures were taken.

Pictures of some participants receiving their certificates.



A group picture of the participants and project team.

#### SCREENING DAY

The set up for the screening was done by 7.00am by the project officers at the municipal hospital in Sefwi Wiawso. The driver picked up Dr. Patricia and Nurse Ellen by 7.30am to the municipal hospital. Individuals who wanted to give out samples were in front of the laboratory by the time we got there. Registration began by 8.00. Nurse Ellen took the samples whilst Dr. Patricia run the tests. The other team left for Bekwai to start another screening there.

The team got to Bekwai by 8.30 am and the screening started at 9.00am. registration began whilst Limmy Sarpong(nurse) and Frank, a lab scientist assigned to us by the municipal hospital took the samples. Individual came in slowly for the screening. The few samples that was taken were quickly transported to a nearby private laboratory for spinning in order to separate plasma. At 11.30, about 10 samples had been spinned and was transported to the municipal hospital at Sefwi Wiawso for PT and APTT tests. At 1.30pm, we were back to Bekwai to see the progress but the screening team had packed because people were not coming again. We returned to Wiawso to join the other team. The exercise finally closed at 5.30pm.















We expected many people to come for the screening. Unfortunately, the turn up was opposite. It appeared that people got scared due to Covid-19. The director met two groups earlier who thought that the whole exercise was a scam.

### **REPORT ON HAEMOPHILIA SCREENING DONE AT SEFWI-WIASO AND SEFWI-BEKWAI ON 16 TH SEPTEMBER, 2021**

A total number of 36 samples were taken, 17 from Sefwi -Wiawso and 19 from Sefwi-Bekwai.

Manual Prothrombin Time (PT) and Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time (APTT) were performed on the samples at Sefwi-Wiawso. One sample taken at Sefwi-Wiawso gave APTT results (46.6sec) higher than the upper limit of the reference range (23.4sec – 36.2sec) and normal PT results (13.1sec), reference range (10.0sec – 14.0sec).

Three samples from Sefwi- Bekwai showed APTT results (44.6sec, 40.1sec and 40.9sec) above the upper limit of the reference range and normal PT results (12.5sec, 11.7sec and 10.1sec).

A total number of four plasma samples were taken to Kumasi for Factor Assay.

The four samples showed results of Factor VIII assay: (23.8, 22.6, 32.1, and 21.3) % which were all interpreted as mild hemophilia.

Fourteen samples from Sefwi-Bekwai failed to clot even after 5 mins. These samples were also taken to Kumasi for fully auto coagulation testing but the analyzer was not able to generate results because they did not clot within the acquisition time.

**RECOMMENDATION: TESTS ON SAMPLES OF PARTICIPANTS FROM SEFWI-BEKWAI WITH NORMAL PT, ABNORMAL APTT, AND ABNORMAL FACTOR VIII SHOULD BE REPEATED TO CONFIRM DIAGNOSIS.**

### **CHALLENGES**

The main challenge that was faced during the outreach was the reluctance of people to receive flyers. Some people were unwilling to give us a listening ear. Others also had the view that the whole process was a scam.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September was the day for departure. The team set off by 5.30am from Sefwi Wiawso and got to Kumasi by 9.30am to drop off Limmy Sarpong, Patricia Aboagye and Ellen Oduro. The rest of the team left Kumasi and arrived in Accra by 3:00pm. The director and Rahamatu Adams alighted at special ice, Oyarifa. The driver and Christiana took some items to the office and also went home.

In conclusion, the outreach and training were successful. Most people got to know about hemophilia for the first time and can now identify the signs, symptoms and were to get help.





Compiled By;

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(Project Officers)

