

Integrated Maternal and Paediatric Care

Ghana



Joseph Brenyah

Organization type:

nonprofit/ngo/citizen sector

Budget:

\$100,000 - \$250,000

Website:

<http://www.cvsighana.com>



- [Child care](#)
- [Health education](#)
- [Infant health](#)
- [Maternal health](#)
- [Early childhood development](#)
- [Reproductive health](#)
- [Women's issues](#)

Project Summary

Elevator Pitch

Concise Summary: Help us pitch this solution! Provide an explanation within 3-4 short sentences.

Integrated Maternal and Paediatric Care (IMAPAC) reaches out effectively to young women, mothers and children in hard to reach and underserved populations in the eight districts of southern Volta region. The program has a threefold approach: 1. Education 2. Community Based System Strengthening and 3. Health Care System Strengthening. Under Education, emphasis is on Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) and Information Education Communication (IEC) and use is made of Peer Education, One-on-One /Focus group discussions and Community advocacy and awareness campaigns with various sectors of the community. Through this interaction, the target population needing attention are identified and reached with appropriate health, economic, nutritional and educational care. Credit Unions and income generation ventures are established for various women groups through the Preventive AIDS Lifeline Micro-credit Strategy (PALMS) and Moral-based Economic and Health Education for Overcoming People (MEHEOP) interventions. Young women are also introduced and trained in female football and competitions organized for them. This provides a source of entertainment, income generation and means of publicity for our activities in the target communities. The Health Care System at the local level is also strengthened to provide the requisite care for women and children who are mostly neglected in the scheme of things. This is done through capacity building workshops and training in specialized skills like community midwifery, counseling and testing, immunization, nutrition and drug administration among others. To ensure that targets and goals are met, a strong monitoring/ evaluation plan is put in place backed by a good management information system.

About Project

Problem: What problem is this project trying to address?

There are serious challenges in the areas of child health/mortality and maternal mortality. 61% of hospital admission for children under age five and 8% of pregnant women in Ghana is attributed to malaria which also kills 22% of children under age and 9% of maternal deaths. More women are reported HIV positive than men and on account of the social and traditional norms, they are more prone to being infected which has serious implications for them and their children. In sub Saharan Africa, a woman's risk of dying from treatable or preventable complications of pregnancy and childbirth over the course of her lifetime is 1 in 22. In 2006, nearly 47% of births in sub Saharan Africa were attended by skilled health personnel. Access to reproductive health remains a distant dream to many women. Contraception is not easily available to many women. Much sensitization efforts are needed to increase patronage of female condoms from the current 5-10% levels. With weak economic base, many women are not able to negotiate for safe sex and women need to be empowered economically to enable them to assert on their rights.

About You

Organization:

CHRISTIAN VOLUNTEER SERVICE INTERNATIONAL

[Visit website](#)

Section 1: About You

First Name

JOSEPH

Last Name

BRENYAH

Website

<http://www.cvsighana.com>

Organization

CHRISTIAN VOLUNTEER SERVICE INTERNATIONAL

Country

, VO

Are you an individual between the ages of 18 and 35 who would like to apply for a nine month Young Champions Program mentored by an Ashoka Fellow?

No

Section 2: About Your Organization**Organization Name**

CHRISTIAN VOLUNTEER SERVICE INTERNATIONAL

Organization Phone

233243301075, 233288217284

Organization Address

MD PMB 3, Madina, Accra

Organization Country

, VO

The information you provide here will be used to fill in any parts of your profile that have been left blank, such as interests, organization information, and website. No contact information will be made public. Please uncheck here if you do not want this to happen..

Your idea**Country your work focuses on**

, VO

Website URL

<http://www.cvsighana.com>

Innovation**What makes your idea unique?**

Integrated Maternal and Paediatric Care (IMAPAC) reaches out effectively to young women, mothers and children in hard to reach and underserved populations in the eight districts of southern Volta region. The program has a threefold approach: 1. Education 2. Community Based System Strengthening and 3. Health Care System Strengthening. Under Education, emphasis is on Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) and Information Education Communication (IEC) and use is made of Peer Education, One-on-One /Focus group discussions and Community advocacy and awareness campaigns with various sectors of the community. Through this interaction, the target population needing attention are identified and reached with appropriate health, economic, nutritional and educational care. Credit Unions and income generation ventures are established for various women groups through the Preventive AIDS Lifeline Micro-credit Strategy (PALMS) and Moral-based Economic and Health Education for Overcoming People (MEHEOP) interventions. Young women are also introduced and trained in female football and competitions organized for them. This provides a source of entertainment, income generation and means of publicity for our activities in the target communities. The Health Care System at the local level is also strengthened to provide the requisite care for women and children who are mostly neglected in the scheme of things. This is done through capacity building workshops and training in specialized skills like community midwifery, counseling and testing, immunization, nutrition and drug administration among others. To ensure that targets and goals are met, a strong monitoring/ evaluation plan is put in place backed by a good management information system.

Do you have a patent for this idea?**Impact****What impact have you had?**

Our program which has a strong advocacy element has been used to impact on public policy. This has resulted to the initiation of many programs by the Government to improve maternal and paediatric health. Pregnant mothers now go the government hospitals and clinics for free ante and post natal care. They and little children are provided free insecticide treated mosquito nets in addition to appropriate doses of anti malarial drugs at prescribed intervals. Free immunization programs for children have been instituted nationwide. Our integrated approach is quite acceptable to the authorities thereby making them and many stakeholders to move to adopt such. From 2003/2004, when we started the Preventive AIDS Lifeline Micro-credit Strategy, fifteen women based credit unions have been formed in various parts of the Volta, Eastern and Greater Accra regions. These organizations formed the impetus for the formation of the African Women Initiatives for Development and Empowerment which is assisting to spearhead the cause of women especially maternal health. The voice of women in the communities in seeking their welfare and for them to patronize various health care intervention for diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria, malnutrition, makes us to go ahead to strengthen and establish more unions. In the past six months, through our HIV/AIDS campaign, over 40,000 people of which 22,000 were women were reached with Abstinence, Being Faithful and Condom use messages and 40,000 male condoms and 7,000 female condoms were distributed.

Actions

- A Central Co-ordinating Headquarters is to be set up to co-ordinate all the activities in the eight districts and in every district too, a co-ordinating centre will be set up to monitor the activities there. A Programme Co-ordinating Unit (PCU) to oversee the running of the centres effectively is then formed to provide administrative support which includes the following activities: a) office support services; b) financial management; c) professional services and d) logistical services.

- As indicated earlier, the program has a threefold approach: 1. Education 2. Community Based System Strengthening and 3. Health Care System Strengthening. Emphasis is on Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) and Information Education Communication (IEC) and use will be made of Women Peer Educators to engage in One-on-One /Focus group discussions and Community advocacy and awareness campaigns to promote the various health, nutritional and economic activities being promoted. More women based credit union and income generating groups will be formed to implement various BCC/IEC initiatives. They will be trained to manage their groups effectively.

Results

160 Women Peer Educators from 16 NGOs in the 8 districts are trained to carry out one-on-one and focus group discussions. Community midwives are trained and operational in all the communities and these are to be supported by the women groups and credit unions in addition to the NGOs and community based organizations in the districts. A Central Co-ordinating Headquarters is set up to co-ordinate all the activities in the eight districts with a Programme Co-ordinating Unit (PCU). \$100,000 will be sought to finance the activities in the first year. An additional revolving funding of \$500,000 will be sought for the micro-finance scheme under the credit union system. 150,000 male and female condoms are to be distributed and 50,000 women and children reached effectively.

160 additional Women Peer Educators from 16 NGOs in the 8 districts are trained. 25 credit unions and other women groups are established and strengthened to provide a strong support base for the project. \$100,000 will be sought to finance the activities in the second year. 200,000 male and female condoms are to be distributed and 150,000 women and children reached effectively.

What will it take for your project to be successful over the next three years? Please address each year separately, if possible.

2010- 160 Women Peer Educators from 16 NGOs in the 8 districts are trained to carry out one-on-one and focus group discussions. Community midwives are trained and operational in all the communities and these are to be supported by the women groups and credit unions in addition to the NGOs and community based organizations in the districts. A Central Co-ordinating Headquarters is set up to co-ordinate all the activities in the eight districts with a Programme Co-ordinating Unit (PCU). \$100,000 will be sought to finance the activities in the first year. An additional revolving funding of \$500,000 will be sought for the micro-finance scheme under the credit union system. 150,000 male and female condoms are to be distributed and 50,000 women and children reached effectively.

-2011- 160 additional Women Peer Educators from 16 NGOs in the 8 districts are trained. 25 credit unions and other women groups are established and strengthened to provide a strong support base for the project. \$100,000 will be sought to finance the activities in the second year. 200,000 male and female condoms are to be distributed and 150,000 women and children reached effectively.

-2012- 50 credit unions and other women groups established and strengthened to provide a strong support base for the project. \$100,000 will be sought to finance the activities in the second year. \$100,000 will be sought to finance the activities in the third year. 300,000 male and female condoms to be distributed and 150,000 women and children reached effectively every year.

What would prevent your project from being a success?

T Inadequate funding to strengthen community and health systems to provide quality antenatal care, timely emergency obstetric services and contraception.

Undue interference in women based credit union and income generating activities by the authorities and lack of financial support.

Lack of proper education of various interventions to the women and community members. .

Lack of access to contraception and sexual and reproductive health counseling for both men, women and adolescents.

How many people will your project serve annually?

More than 10,000

What is the average monthly household income in your target community, in US Dollars?

Less than \$50

Does your project seek to have an impact on public policy?

Yes

Sustainability

What stage is your project in?

Operating for more than 5 years

Is your initiative connected to an established organization?

Yes

If yes, provide organization name.

Christian Volunteer Service International

How long has this organization been operating?

More than 5 years

Does your organization have a Board of Directors or an Advisory Board?

Yes

Does your organization have a non-monetary partnerships with NGOs?

Yes

Does your organization have a non-monetary partnerships with businesses?

Yes

Does your organization have a non-monetary partnerships with government?

Yes

Please tell us more about how these partnerships are critical to the success of your innovation.

Christian Volunteer Service International has entered into partnerships with the Ghana AIDS Commission, 15 not-for profit organizations, 2 networks, agricultural co-operatives and credit unions/microfinance institutions to effectively carry out this program. Of note are the following organizations: African Women Initiatives for Development and Empowerment (AWIDE), United Network Against HIV/AIDS in Africa, Health and Nutritional Network in Africa, Rural Progress, Joy Family Association, Universal Caring Foundation, Salem Maternity Better Life Movement, Power Life Christian Association, Education for Self Help, Fact for the Youth in the Southern Sector Organization, Homes Fountain, Keta-Akatsi Diocese Development Office, Rural Life Association, Seek to Save Foundation, Plan Africa, Volta Care, Rally for Life International, Aveyime GARFUND Co-operative Credit Union, Kantamanto Co-operative Credit Union, Living Manna Co-operative Credit Union, Dekaworwor Harborbor Women's Group, Women United Against Malnutrition, Women of Liberia Peace Network, many small women and youth groups and community/faith based organizations in eight districts in the southern part of the Volta region.

What are the three most important actions needed to grow your initiative or organization?

The three fold approach will be intensified to grow the initiative. 1. Under Education, we will intensify our Behavioural Change Communication and Information Education Communication methods to produce permanent results. More peer educators will be trained and the old ones retrained to ensure that they remain active and capable of producing results. More volunteers will equally be brought in and trained to work directly in their communities to create the desired impact. More awareness and advocacy campaigns will be conducted based on our monitoring and evaluation scheme. 2. The women based credit union concept will be expanded to every community in addition to women groups to engage in income generation activities. Female football gala will be organized for all the 8 districts after clubs have been formed in all the operational areas. 3. In close collaboration with the District Health Teams and hospitals and clinics, we will strengthen the health care system to provide comprehensive care for women and children. Fistula, female genital mutilation and other critical female issues will be handled and eradicated over the years. With a strong co-ordinating arm in place, we will organize series of training and retraining to ensure specialized skills are available locally to handle maternal cases and help develop strong mothers and children who will be the bedrock of our future generation.

The Story

What was the defining moment that you led to this innovation?

Christian Volunteer Service International (CVSI) has been in the vanguard in project co-ordination, capacity building and policy development in HIV/AIDS related programmes over the past six years. In 2003, CVSI signed a consultancy agreement with Tree of Life International and Christian Service Co-operation two non-governmental organisations that had been awarded sub-project contracts with the Ghana AIDS Commission to undertake two HIV Awareness Campaigns in the Volta region of Ghana. CVSI co-ordinated effectively to bring the sub-projects to a successful conclusion by training the management and field teams of the organizations, provided supervision, monitoring and evaluation and finally, an impact assessment. CVSI assisted in formulating the Preventive AIDS Micro-Credit Strategy (PALMS) with these organizations to effectively establish credit unions to undertake income generating activities to set the pace for community support and care for People Living With HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). In 2009, the Ghana AIDS Commission enlisted CVSI and 30 other large Civil Society Organisations to undertake HIV prevention programs in the country. Whilst working in the Southern Volta region with 15 NGOs under us, CVSI found the need to engage in an integrated approach to have an effective outreach for maternal and paediatric health.

Tell us about the social innovator behind this idea.

Pastor Joseph Brenyah is interested in rural and community transformation especially the holistic training of the youth and women in self-employment ventures, health and educational outreaches. In doing so, he aims to empower them to be active participants to change their communities for the better. He has over twenty 20 years experience in humanitarian, community and faith based programmes and is credited with a lot of social innovation. He is a versatile industrial chemist, a naturopath, an experienced administrator, clergyman and social entrepreneur. He has organized a lot of local and international seminars, workshops, conferences and training programs in management, HIV/AIDS, water and sanitation, small-scale industrial technologies, co-operatives and social entrepreneurship. Many for profit and not-for profit organizations/social ventures have been formed under his direction for effective social impact. He is presently in charge of Christian Volunteer Service International, a non-governmental organization and Moringa Oleifera Farms and Industries Limited, a social enterprise/venture.

How did you first hear about Changemakers?

Personal contact at Changemakers

If through another, please provide the name of the organization or company

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