

Jhpiego in Ghana

Quick Facts

Estimated total population:¹
24 million

Maternal mortality ratio:²
541 per 100,000 live births

Infant mortality rate:²
50 per 1,000 live births

Under-five mortality rate:²
80 per 1,000 live births

Total fertility rate:¹
4.0

Contraceptive prevalence:¹
17% (modern methods)
24% (all methods)

HIV prevalence:³
1.8%

Births with skilled provider:²
59%

Sources:

¹2010 Population and Housing Census, Ghana Statistical Service;

²Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2008;

³UNAIDS 2010 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic.

Background

One of the most politically and economically stable countries in West Africa, Ghana is blessed with natural resources, including oil. In terms of health indicators, Ghana has made significant strides in health. Children under five were one-third less likely to die in 2009 than they were in 2000. Contraceptive use in Ghana is the highest in West Africa, although the contraceptive prevalence rate remains lower than most East African countries and elsewhere in the world. The HIV prevalence rate is among the lowest on the continent; however, specific groups such as young, poor women are especially vulnerable to HIV infection. Despite the recent gains in health, work remains to be done to ensure the health of the population, particularly vulnerable groups such as children and women.

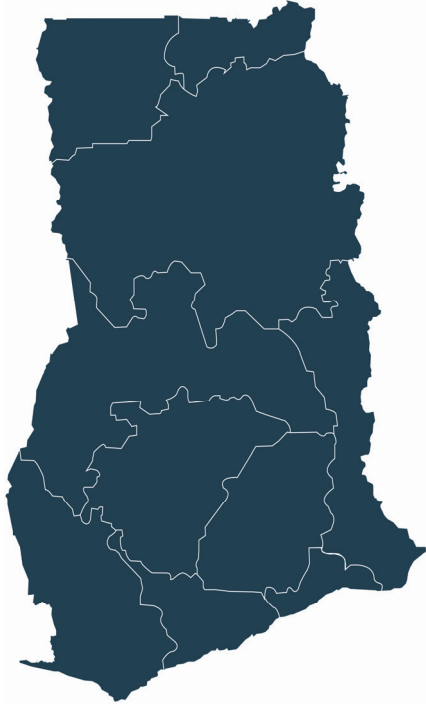
For two decades, Jhpiego has provided technical support to the Ministry of Health (MOH), Ghana Health Service (GHS) and Nurses and Midwives Council (NMC), with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other donors. From 2001 to 2005, the MOH and Jhpiego conducted a cervical cancer prevention project, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to screen for cervical cancer, treat pre-cancerous lesions and refer women with cervical cancer. Other interventions over the last 10 years include: 1) teaming with local organization Family Health Foundation to provide voluntary counseling and testing for HIV to high-risk, marginalized youth surrounding Agbogbloshie market; 2) strengthening Ghanaian capacity to train providers in intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnant women (IPTp); 3) developing IPTp information, education and communication materials for the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP); and 4) leveraging Jhpiego's global partnerships with Intel®, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to place a free eLearning platform and learning materials in six midwifery schools.

Currently, Jhpiego is implementing four programs in Ghana that are described in more detail below.

Current Program Highlights

Maternal and Child Survival Program

In Ghana, the USAID-funded Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) builds on previous work under the Access to Clinical and Community Maternal, Neonatal and Women's Health Services (ACCESS) Program and the Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP). From 2008 to 2010, Jhpiego worked under USAID's ACCESS Program to improve the quality of malaria in pregnancy services in health facilities, and strengthen pre-service education for



malaria in pregnancy. In 2010, as ACCESS phased out, Jhpiego Ghana transitioned this work to MCHIP and expanded into technical areas beyond malaria. During the five years of implementation in Ghana, MCHIP collaborated with the GHS and the Human Resource for Health Development Unit (HRHD) of the MOH to improve the quality of health education at 61 nursing and midwifery schools. It accomplished this by training tutors and preceptors in HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, family planning (FP), nutrition, neonatal resuscitation and basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care, as well as by providing follow-up, on-site and innovative mobile mentoring (mMentoring) to ensure retention of competencies. MCSP is building on the work begun under MCHIP to contribute to the improvement of health outcomes for HIV, malaria, nutrition, FP and maternal, newborn and child health services. MCSP will develop innovative approaches to address key challenges affecting pre-service education using field-based and program-oriented operations research. In support of the Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) program—a national network of community-based nurses and midwives who provide care to local communities—MCSP will provide the GHS with essential technical assistance in implementation, training, monitoring and evaluation.

Jubilee Partners

In 2011, Jhpiego received a five-year grant from the Jubilee Partners (a consortium of Tullow Oil, Kosmos Energy, Anadarko Petroleum, Ghana National Petroleum Corporation and Petra SA) to decrease the malaria burden in six districts in the Western Region of Ghana by improving access to high-quality, integrated health services. Under this project, Jhpiego is working very closely with the GHS to strengthen the CHPS system. Jhpiego is accomplishing this through an integrated, holistic approach to improve the quality of health care services by applying Jhpiego's quality improvement approach known as Standards-Based Management and Recognition (SBM-R®) at a total of 61 new CHPS zones. The project focuses on supporting community health officers (CHOs) and strengthening local community support to improve access to basic primary health care (including malaria prevention and education, reproductive health and FP) for nearly one million residents.

U.S. Department of Defense

Jhpiego is implementing a three-year program, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), to support the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) to provide high-quality HIV/AIDS prevention and care services in Ghana. This initiative operates in partnership with the GAF to achieve the three-year goal of mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on GAF beneficiaries, including members of the Ghana military, their families, Ministry of Defense civilian employees and the surrounding civilian communities. To reach this goal, Jhpiego is providing technical support to: 1) strengthen the GAF's capacity to effectively manage high-quality HIV and AIDS programming, 2) increase GAF beneficiaries' access to HIV prevention and care services, and 3) improve GAF lab capacity for HIV services.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Under this three-year award, Jhpiego is working to reduce newborn mortality in Ghana through low-dose, high-frequency training approaches aimed to supplement Project Fives Alive!—a project implemented by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation. Within IHI's existing project framework, Jhpiego is providing an evidence-based, scalable approach to improve the competency of providers to reduce newborn mortality. Jhpiego's project goal is to reduce the newborn mortality rate (in the first 24 hours) by 25% at 110 health facilities in 10 regions of Ghana over three years, to be achieved through two objectives: 1) ensure that 110 health facilities in 10 regions have competent health care providers and the basic supplies needed to provide high-quality, evidence-based maternal and newborn care services; and 2) develop, test and refine a sustainability model that enables the low-dose, high-frequency approach to be scaled up to additional facilities beyond the life of the project.

Key Accomplishments

- To strengthen pre-service education, 100 tutors received training in effective teaching skills. In addition, knowledge and competencies were improved for 154 tutors and preceptors in postpartum FP and postabortion care, 162 tutors in FP, 183 tutors and preceptors in malaria, 190 tutors in HIV/AIDS, 66 tutors and 48 preceptors in basic emergency obstetric and newborn care, 132 tutors in nutrition and 83 tutors and preceptors in neonatal resuscitation using the Helping Babies Breathe curriculum.
- Skills labs at 15 midwifery schools received a basic package of education tools (models, CD-ROMs, training packages, resource manuals, etc.), seven skills labs received additional models/training materials and six were fully equipped.
- Through the Jubilee Partners funding, Jhpiego is working at 61 CHPS sites and supported the selection and training of 214 CHOs and 327 community health volunteers. It also supported the creation of 47 community health management committees (CHMCs) and trained 340 CHMC members. The percentage of project-supported health sites with community health volunteers increased from 61% to 100%.
- 100% of the 18 targeted Phase 2 CHPS zones have achieved high performance as measured by scoring more than 80% on performance standards for all technical domains.
- The GAF has an approved HIV/AIDS national strategy.
- Counseling and testing at GAF service delivery points has improved through the refurbishment of the HIV counseling center at the 37 Military Hospital, as well as training of 20 master trainers in HIV testing and counseling (HTC), 26 HTC counselors and 36 peer educators.

Partners and Donors.

- Past and present donors for Jhpiego's program in Ghana include USAID; DOD; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; WHO's Roll Back Malaria; and Jubilee Partners.
- Past and present in-country partners include national organizations such as the MOH, GHS, NMCP, NMC, National AIDS Control Program, Human Resources Development Division, GAF, pre-service education schools and Family Health Foundation. International partners include UNFPA, EngenderHealth, Population Council, NetMark and Ipas.



Nurse conducting a cervical cancer counseling session in Ghana.



Ghanaian midwife providing newborn care in the New Abirem Health Centre.

References

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). *2010 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*.

Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), Ghana Health Service (GHS), and ICF Macro. 2009. *Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2008*. Accra, Ghana: GSS, GHS, and ICF Macro.

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Ghanaian women with insecticide-treated bed nets.