



GHANA COALITION OF NGOs

IN HEALTH



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*The Coalition Collaborates with UNAIDS to
Fight HIV Related Stigma in the General
Population*

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HIV/AIDS-related stigma has been described as apathy, fear and misconceptions regarding the virus. It is due to the usual feelings against sex, and the way it is viewed and talked about within the typical African context.

Although huge progress has been made in scaling up awareness and fostering behavior change within the general population in Ghana, HIV-related stigma and discrimination still poses a grave danger on the progress made so far. This is because of the prevailing tendency in the system to easily blame PLHIV for sexual immorality. Secondly, this level of stigma has led many in the society to be apathetic to learning and deeply understanding the real modes of HIV transmission; and also led to very low turnout on the number of people willing to know their HIV status.

In order to avert the above mentioned dangers which threaten to reverse the progresses made so far in reducing the rate of HIV infections, as well as fostering longer and more meaningful livelihood for those already affected and infected; the Coalition has embarked on a nationwide campaign to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

This exercise which is being sponsored by UNAIDS-WHO's Projects Accelerated Fund, gave the Coalition a golden opportunity to deepen the training skills and knowledge for Master Trainers among CSOs from all the ten regions of Ghana, on how to reduce stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and PLHIVs, as well as how CSOs could incorporate stigma reduction messages into all existing community based responses against HIV

Subsequently, a step-down training of CSOs in all the 10 regions of Ghana, through which over 170 NGOs that are involved in HIV prevention and BCC activities have been support to benefit from this initiative; has undoubtedly sparked off positive action in the general public, deepening the knowledge of HIV.

Recently, a nationwide monitoring survey by the HIV technical team from the National Coalition has revealed that CSOs' preventive/behavioural change focused activities are becoming more and more creative to foster confidence among PLHIV as well as increased behavioural change toward HIV and persons infected and affected with HIV.



Some participants during the training

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