



## Ghana TB Voice Network World TB Day 2019 Campaign

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> March 2019

**Venue:** Kumasi

### **Objectives:**

- Organize a community durbar to rouse the support of all stakeholders in TB control in Kumasi to support the drive of not leaving any one behind in the fight to end TB in Ghana by 2030.
- Organise TV and Radio engagements to provide adequate knowledge for an estimated 10,000 people to expel fear and embrace TB knowledge by making them to be aware of the signs and symptoms of TB and be confident to walk into a health facility to know their TB status.
- Screen at least 2500 people during the World TB Day 2019 campaign in Kumasi.

### **Narration of Activity Undertaken:**

*“Knowing is not enough: we must apply. Willing is not enough: we must do” - Goethe*

World TB Day is marked worldwide every year on March 24<sup>th</sup>. to commemorate the discovery of TB, a disease which has been around for generations and still kills more than 4,000 people per day. The theme for WORLD TB DAY 2019 is **“ITS TIME!”** So, from the 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2019, TB Voice Network (TBVN) used the platform provided globally to raise more awareness among people and social actors for the actions needed to end TB. This most significant annual date for the TB community had extra importance, as it was also six months since the high-level meeting (HLM) in New York where National leaders made commitments.

As a pre-World TB Day activity, TBVN embarked on mass TB awareness starting from the 20<sup>th</sup> of March to 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 using a series of community radio talk shows on TB. Stations visited included Garden City TV, Garden city Radio 92.1, OTEC 102.9 FM stations.

This was followed by a mobile information van to target high burden TB communities in Kwadaso, Kumasi as one of the approaches to engage community actors to undertake and support community actions that reduces TB associated stigma and discrimination, improve TB case detection and TB notification. This intervention also helped to amplify the “ITS TIME”, message.

TB Voice Network in partnership with the Kumasi Metro Health Directorate engaged Imams, Mallams and key social actors at the Central Mosque on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2019 to dialogue on ways to amplify the message that, “it is time” to end TB in Ghana. The expectation was that through the engagement religious actors will know that it is time for them to play their part in



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kicking TB out of their communities and the national TB Campaign to spread the simple message that TB is curable, treatment and diagnosis is free and so no one needs to die from TB.

This high-level advocacy meeting with the religious leaders dove tailed into the community durbar and health screening on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019. TB Voice Network, in partnership with the Kumasi Metro Health Directorate used the platform to highlight to all stakeholders and community that we through shared efforts and responsibilities it is possible to end TB in Ghana.

In attendance at the World TB Day durbar were Dr. Akosua Gyimah Metro Director, KMHD; Mrs Elizabeth Gyrago KMHD; Mrs Theresa Agyei Mensah, Assistant Director Kwadaso Municipal Assembly; Mrs Grace Billi Kwadaso Metro Director for Health, Mr. Solomon Boakye Metro disease Control officer, Mr. Emmanuel Amoateng Metro TB Coordinator, Mrs Nsiah Amawuo Ababio, Suame Metro Director for health; Mr. Jerry Amoa- Larbi TBVN, Alfred Tsiboe TBVN.

The Municipal Chief Executive, Hon. Richmond Agyenim delivered a speech which was read on his behalf by Madame Elizabeth Gyrago. In his speech he pointed out that “In Ashanti Region new smear positive for 2016 was 1150 and 1258 in 2017 which shows an increase in positive cases recorded. Hence, there is the need for concerted effort to mobilise resources to embark upon comprehensive education and awareness campaign to accelerate the rate to end TB by the target year of 2020”.

Other speakers on the day also commented on the fact that its time for all stakeholders to join forces to help kick out TB. According to Dr Akosua Gyimah; all should have knowledge about TB, its time to know your TB status and it’s time to end stigma.

For her part, Mrs Grace Billi stated that as a newly created municipality their bench mark is to ensure that all persons have access to quality health care including TB testing as well as treatment for persons with TB. This is in line with meeting the SDG Goal 3 “Good health and wellbeing”.

The community durbar and health screening were used to create traffic to accredited private clinics and community pharmacies as entry points for TB screening and case finding. All presumed TB patients that were tested were informed of enrolled on free treatment and NHIS for coverage. Trained TBDs also created demand for TB services by conducting targeted house to house, door to door community screening and referring presumed TB cases for testing.

At the end of the outreach screening exercise 1721 people were screened (583 males and 1178 females) with 18 people 9 male and 9 females referred for testing. 80 people also took the opportunity to know their HIV status.



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### Appendix







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