

PPAG's PRMA, DTO Projects Launched

Report: Bernard Ato Arthur

Ghana still faces major challenges in making high quality sexual and reproductive health services widely available and accessible to the vast majority of the people; regardless of the vigorous awareness creation and institution building efforts of Government over the years.

The official figure of Maternal Mortality Ratio is 214 per 100,000 live births, but WHO/UNICEF/UNFA has pegged it at 540 per 100,000 live births.

While contraceptive prevalence rate for modern methods is 19% with an indication of a 14% decline in the recent Multi-Cluster Indicator Survey (MICS, 2006), unmet needs for contraception is 34% with a rural urban disparity of 10 percentage points (38% and 28%) respectively. Total Fertility Rate is 4.4%, Birth attended by skilled personnel – 43% Births at home – 53% (GDHO, 2003)

These facts were made known by Frema Osei Opare, an MP and Deputy Minister of Manpower, Youth and Employment, in an address read on behalf of the First Lady, Mrs. Theresa Kufuor, at the launch of the "Donorship to Ownership" and "Resource Mobilization Awareness" projects in Accra on Tuesday November 11, 2008.

During the launch, she urged the women and the national advocacy coalition to call on government to integrate Family Planning Commodities and Services into the Free Maternal Care Policy being implemented through the National Health Insurance Scheme to ensure a more holistic maternal care for the Ghanaian women.

According to the Minister, Maternal health is not just about ante-natal, post-natal and supervised delivery, but the ability of the woman to be in control at child birth and spacing birth, which will make them healthy and improve their survival as well.

She also asked Civil Society Organizations



Maj. Courage Quashigah, Health Minister

and stakeholders to strengthen partnerships aimed at ensuring progress towards the 5th Goal of the Millennium Development, which is improving maternal health as well as funding sexual and reproductive health programmes for its improvement. In his address, Dr. Richard B. Turkson, Member of PPAG's National

Advocacy Coalition said, both the Donorship to Ownership (DTO) and the Resource Mobilization Awareness Projects (PRMA), which was officially launched last Tuesday, November 11th 2008 under the theme; "Improving Maternal Health through Sustainable Funding of Sexual and Reproductive Health Programmes" share a common advocacy methodology known as the Country Global Pathways (CGP).

He said, the main objectives of the projects include increasing of public funds devoted to Sexual and reproductive health programmes, advocating for new laws and policies in the existing ones to promote provision of Sexual and reproductive health services while increasing government's commitment to the services above.

Dr. Turkson noted that as a result a coalition of influential individuals and advocacy networks aimed at getting government to commit financially and politically to sexual and reproductive health and right has been constituted.

Fan Milk donates dustbins to schools

Fan Milk Ghana Limited has donated dustbins to some schools within the Ashanti and Western Regions.

The donations also form part of the company's social responsibility aimed at improving sanitation in schools and amongst school children, communities and the nation at large. The programme was also used as a platform to educate the school children on good disposal of waste and maintaining good sanitation practices. Seventy five (75) schools have been interacted with since the beginning of the year and two hundred and sixty seven (267) donations made to them. The recent beneficiary schools are Amakwatia Basic School, Asokwa Primary

school and Ejusu Presbyterian School. Others are Elmina Catholic Girls School, Kojokrom Methodist Primary and Junior High School and Chirepatere Primary school. The rest are Colenrando Preparatory School and Flower Gay School.

Presenting the dustbins to the schools, Mr. Sydney Buaku, Assistant Brands Coordinator, Fan Milk Ghana Limited, told the pupils to always maintain high sanitation standards in their schools, homes and wherever they find themselves.

The head teachers of the beneficiary schools expressed their appreciation to Fan Milk for coming to their aid in the fight against sanitation in their schools.