



# Special Report Availability of Communication Materials in Target Facilities

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## **Introduction**

Quality Health Partners (QHP) undertook a census of all hospitals, health centres and selected private facilities in 28 target Districts of the seven southern regions of Ghana and in all Regional hospitals (n=171)<sup>i</sup>. The census included all facilities in the Districts except for private clinics, maternity homes and facilities below the Health Centre level. Data were collected from 94% of the targeted facilities in November and December 2004.

This paper provides an analysis of the findings on communication materials and topics that might prove useful for targeting communications programmes to health workers or towards providing health education and counseling materials to facilities in the target area. It also provides information on the availability of VCT sites.

## **Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)**

The availability of STI related visual aids and counseling materials in the STI examination rooms was very low. A total of 55.6% of facilities had no visual aids at all, 23.4% had 1-2 items and 21.1% had three or more types of visual/counseling aids. STI Visual aids are concentrated in the regional hospitals, while district hospitals and health centres have fewer resources.

Facilities in the target districts of Eastern Region (Birim North and Afram Plains) had higher than average availability of materials. Target districts in Brong Ahafo region also had high availability of visual aids. There was a large regional variation in the types of materials available (Table 1).

**Table 1: Availability of Visual Aids and Counseling Aids for STIs in STI Examination rooms**

Region	VA on STIs	VA on HIV/AIDS	Flipchart STI	AV on STIs	Model for Condom demonstration
<b>Regional Hospitals</b>	87.5	75.0	87.5	75.0	87.5
<b>District/ Mission Other Hosp</b>	24.3	29.7	27.0	10.8	27.0
<b>Health Centres/ Other Facilities</b>	31.2	29.3	26.9	8.7	39.6
<b>Ashanti</b>					
	15.4	15.4	15.4	7.7	15.4
<b>Brong Ahafo</b>					
	60.0	60.0	30.0	10.0	11.1
<b>Central</b>					
	30.8	30.8	30.8	11.5	32.7
<b>Eastern</b>					
	55.6	55.6	55.6	44.4	66.7
<b>Greater Accra</b>					
	80.0	40.0	40.0	0.0	60.0
<b>Volta</b>					
	29.6	28.0	34.6	12.0	52.0
<b>Western</b>					
	10.0	20.0	10.0	5.0	40.0
<b>Totals</b>					
	<b>32.6</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>39.0</b>

Very few facilities had audio-visual materials on STIs at the facility level. Most of these audio-visual materials were in Regional Hospitals.

The GSCP Baseline survey<sup>ii</sup> showed that few respondents receive their health information from brochures. It is not known if this is because the channel is not well liked by the respondents, or that brochures simply are not available. QHP Baseline results show that overall availability of brochures on STIs and HIV is very low outside Regional Hospitals (Table 2).

**Table 2: Availability of Take Home Health Education Materials and Condoms in STI Examination rooms**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Take home brochure on STI</b>	<b>Take home brochure on HIV/AIDS</b>	<b>Condoms available in the room</b>
<b>Regional Hospitals</b>	62.5	62.5	75.0
<b>District/ Mission Other Hosp</b>	10.8	19.4	21.6
<b>Health Centres/ Other Facilities</b>	15.4	17.6	29.3
<b>Ashanti</b>			
	7.7	7.7	7.7
<b>Brong Ahafo</b>			
	20.0	20.0	10.0
<b>Central</b>			
	14.0	17.6	21.6
<b>Eastern</b>			
	66.7	66.7	66.7
<b>Greater Accra</b>			
	0.0	20.0	40.0
<b>Volta</b>			
	11.5	16.7	42.3
<b>Western</b>			
	5.0	10.0	30.0
<b>Totals</b>	16.9	20.7	29.9

## **HIV and AIDS Services**

Overall – 44.6% of facilities said that they offered any services related to HIV/AIDS and 23.6% (n=40) said that they offered voluntary testing and counseling.

At the time of this baseline survey, Wa Regional Hospital in Upper West was the only facility at the regional level that was not offering voluntary counseling and testing. A number of District Hospitals were not offering VCT. However, VCT was often offered by other facilities in the District (Table 3).

**Table 3: Key Facilities not offering VCT, Location and Availability of Nearby Alternate Testing Sites**

<b>Name of Facility With No VCT Services</b>	<b>Type of Facility</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Alternative Testing Sites</b>
Upper West Regional Hospital	Regional Hospital	Upper West		No other facilities in this region assessed
Ankaful General Hospital	District Hospital	Central	KEEA	VCT Offered by Elmina Urban Health Centre
Apam Catholic Hospital	District Hospital	Central	Gomoa	VCT offered by Obuasi Health Centre
Winneba Hospital	District Hospital	Central	Awutu Efutu Senya	VCT Offered by Awutu Beraku Health Centre
Dunkwa Offin Hospital	District Hospital	Central	Upper Denkyira	None
Kuntanase Hospital	District Hospital	Ashanti	Bosomtwi Atwima Kwanwoma	None
Atibie District Hospital	District Hospital	Eastern	Kwahu South (QHP Hi-Volume Facility)	No other facilities in this district assessed
Presbyterian Hospital	District Hospital	Eastern	Afram Plains	None
Comboni Polyclinic	Other Hospital	Volta	South Tongu	VCT Offered by Sogakope Hospital and Dabala Health Centre

In some districts, health centres are functioning as the main VCT site, especially where the District Hospital is a mission facility. However, in Central region there were also a few health centres and private clinics that offer VCT, even though it is also available at the District Hospital (Table 4).

**Table 4: Health Centres that offer VCT in addition to the District Hospital**

Name of Facility	Type of Facility	Region	District
Anomabo Health Centre	Health Centre	Central	Mfantsiman
Ba Salvation Army Clinic	Private Clinic	Central	Ajumako Odoben Brakwa
Prince Charles Clinic*	Private Clinic	Central	Mfantsiman

\*this facility has since closed.

## Child Health Education Materials

The availability of CHEST kit materials (Child Health Education Skills Toolkit – developed by the Johns Hopkins Centre for Communications Programmes to provide information on family planning and child health), counseling cards for use with the mother or other visual aids was assessed.

Overall 43.9% of facilities had at least one material to use to counsel caretakers, and 16.4% of facilities had more than one material available. However, 56.1% of facilities had no counseling materials for child health available at the facility.

Unlike the materials for STIs and HIV, materials on child health tend to be readily available at the health centre level, rather than at the hospital level. Overall materials were not widely available in the target districts in Western region (Table 5).

**Table 5: Availability of Health Education Materials to educate caretakers on child health topics**

	CHEST Kit	Caretaker Counseling Card	Other counseling material	Any counseling material on CH
<b>Regional Hospitals</b>	11.1	30.0	40.0	50.0
<b>District/Mission Hospitals</b>	13.9	11.1	22.2	20.5
<b>Health Centres / Other Facilities</b>	25.2	22.6	32.1	50.8
<b>Ashanti</b>				
	5.3	15.0	55.0	65.0
<b>Brong Ahafo</b>				
	22.2	20.0	50.0	60.0
<b>Central</b>				
	15.0	22.6	20.0	32.8
<b>Eastern</b>				
	12.5	33.3	37.5	33.3
<b>Greater Accra</b>				
	33.3	33.3	20.0	33.3
<b>Volta</b>				
	58.1	30.0	41.4	72.7
<b>Western</b>				
	5.0	0.0	13.0	17.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>43.9</b>

## **Family Planning Health Education Materials**

A series of questions about family planning materials was asked. These questions were similar to the questions on materials asked in the STI service delivery area, but the availability of these materials in the family planning service delivery area was assessed.

Overall 87.7% of facilities had at least one visual aid to support family planning counseling. Of the 21 facilities that had no family planning visual aids, 10 were either mission facilities (Catholic) or private for profit facilities (n=3).

**Table 6: Availability of Visual Aids and Educational Materials in Family Planning Service Areas**

	<b>VA on Family Planning</b>	<b>VA on STIs</b>	<b>VA on HIV/AIDS</b>	<b>Model for Condom demonstration</b>	<b>At least 1 visual aid</b>
<b>Regional Hospitals</b>	100.0	20.0	40.0	90.0	100.0
<b>District/ Mission Hospitals</b>	93.5	32.3	44.8	87.1	79.5
<b>Health Centres/ Other Facilities</b>	85.0	29.2	32.4	85.0	89.3
<b>Ashanti</b>					
<b>Ashanti</b>	72.2	16.7	16.7	50.0	75.0
<b>Brong Ahafo</b>					
<b>Brong Ahafo</b>	90.0	22.2	50.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Central</b>					
<b>Central</b>	94.6	32.1	30.4	94.6	87.5
<b>Eastern</b>					
<b>Eastern</b>	88.9	66.7	62.5	88.9	75.0
<b>Greater Accra</b>					
<b>Greater Accra</b>	100.0	40.0	60.0	100.0	83.3
<b>Volta</b>					
<b>Volta</b>	90.6	41.9	63.3	96.9	97.0
<b>Western</b>					
<b>Western</b>	71.4	0.0	0.0	65.0	87.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>87.7</b>

Overall, the availability of family planning education materials was better than materials to provide information on STIs and HIV. The target districts in Ashanti Region and in Western region had the lowest availability of materials (Tables 6 and 7).

**Table 7: Educational Materials in Family Planning Service Areas**

	<b>FP Poster</b>	<b>Essentials of Contra Tech poster</b>	<b>Pamphlet FP</b>	<b>Pamphlet STI</b>	<b>Pamphlet HIV</b>
<b>Regional Hospitals</b>	100.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	30.0
<b>District/ Mission Other Hosp</b>	74.2	41.9	74.2	29.0	41.9
<b>Health Centres/ Other Facilities</b>	69.9	23.9	55.8	23.9	30.1
<b>Ashanti</b>					
	55.6	22.2	33.3	5.6	22.2
<b>Brong Ahafo</b>					
	90.0	0.0	70.0	10.0	30.0
<b>Central</b>					
	60.7	25.5	54.5	21.8	33.9
<b>Eastern</b>					
	88.9	66.7	88.9	55.6	55.6
<b>Greater Accra</b>					
	80.0	60.0	100.0	20.0	20.0
<b>Volta</b>					
	81.3	46.9	78.1	43.8	50.0
<b>Western</b>					
	85.7	10.0	45.0	10.0	10.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>32.5</b>

## Conclusions

### Sexually Transmitted Infections

- Visual aids on STIs are lacking, both in the STI examination rooms (32.6%) and in the family planning service areas (29.2%). Given that STIs are a major cause of infertility<sup>iii, iv</sup>, increasing provider and client awareness of their affect on the reproductive cycle may improve family planning uptake by reducing misconceptions about family planning as a cause of infertility.
- Facilities in the target districts in Ashanti and Western regions had especially low availability of visual aids on STIs. Facilities in the target districts of Brong Ahafo and Eastern region had the highest availability of materials visual aids on STIs.
- Take-home pamphlets for clients on STIs were only available in 16.9% of STI examination rooms and in 23.4% of family planning service areas.
- Audio-visual materials on STIs are very low overall (13.1%) and most these materials are focused in the Regional facilities.

- Most of the models for demonstrating the proper use of a condom are in the family planning service area (85.7%) and not in the STI examination rooms (39.0%). Condom models are most often available in STI examination rooms in Regional Hospitals (where there are specialized clinics).

### HIV and AIDS

- Visual aids on HIV/AIDS in facilities was also low (32.1% in STI examination rooms and 34.4% in Family Planning service areas). Facilities in the target districts in Ashanti and Western regions had especially low availability of visual aids on HIV/AIDS.
- Facilities in the target districts of Brong Ahafo and Eastern region had the highest availability of materials on HIV/AIDS. In family planning service areas there was also a high availability of materials in the target districts in Volta and Greater Accra regions – indicating there may have been an intervention to supply materials to these areas.
- Take home brochures/pamphlets on HIV/AIDS also had low availability (20.7% of STI examination rooms and 32.5% of family planning service areas).
- HIV pamphlets in STI examination rooms were lacking in target districts in Ashanti, Central, Volta and Western Regions. The target districts of Eastern region had the best availability. Most of these brochures were in the Regional Hospitals.
- HIV pamphlets in Family Planning service delivery areas were available throughout the facilities, but were less often available in the target districts of Western Region, Greater Accra and Ashanti. Eastern region target districts had the best availability of HIV brochures.
- Three of 28 target districts had no VCT facility in the district at the time of the survey (Upper Denkyira, Central Region, Bosomtwi Atwima Kwanwoma, Ashanti Region and Afram Plains in Eastern Region). VCT was not available at the Wa (Upper West) Regional Hospital at the time of the survey.

### Child Health Education Materials

- Less than half (43.9%) of all facilities had one material for counseling caretakers on child health topics.

- Child health education materials were especially lacking in the target districts of Western Region.

### Family Planning Materials

- Family planning visual aids were available in most of the facilities in the sample (87.7%). The availability of brochures on family planning was also relatively high with 59.1%. Materials were often not available in mission facilities and private facilities assessed.
- The availability of STI and HIV materials in family planning service delivery areas was very low, indicating missed opportunities to provide education and counseling on these important topics while discussing family planning.
- The target districts in Ashanti, Brong Ahafo and Western regions had low availability of supporting materials (STI brochures and visual aids, HIV brochures and visual aids).

## References

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<sup>i</sup> Quality Health Partners (2005) Facility Baseline Assessment of Regional Hospitals and Facilities in 28 Target Districts in Seven Regions of Ghana, Accra, Ghana: Quality Health Partners / Ghana Health Service.

<sup>ii</sup> Adjei, E. Owusu, G and Bruce, K (2005) Baseline Assessment of Current Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice of Key Health Behaviors in the Seven Southern Regions of Ghana, Accra, Ghana: Ghana Sustainable Change Project.

<sup>iii</sup> Cates, W. et.al. Worldwide Patterns of Infertility: Is Africa Different? *Lancet* Sep 14 1985:569-598.

<sup>iv</sup> Mayaud, P. (2001) "The Role of Reproductive Tract Infections" in Boerma, J.T. and Mgalla Z (eds) Women and Infertility in sub-Saharan Africa: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach Amsterdam: KIT Publishing.