

# **OBAATAN MOBILIZATION ORGANIZATION AGAINST POVERTY(OMAP)**

*(NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION)*

## **COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME AT GOMOA TEKHYAM**

**MAY 2010**



## **PROJECT TITLE: BRINGING HEALTH CARE TO THE VULNERABLE RURAL CHILD.**

### **A. ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND**

Obaatan Mobilization Against Poverty(OMAP) is a non-governmental organization(NGO), wholly owned by Ghanaians and registered under the Company Act 1963 as a body corporate registered by guarantee.

The brain behind OMAP is Naana Kittoe. She lived in the USA for so many years and is determined to devote the rest of her life to poor and vulnerable people in our deprived communities. Whilst in the USA she was involved in community development programmes with various charitable organizations and philanthropic groups. She has put together a team of credible and committed individuals who are themselves philanthropists. Members of the team are professionals in their own right and have established unique credibility in their fields of endeavour, particularly, in social work and care for the needy. They have resolved to do everything possible to assist those who are very vulnerable, poor and neglected in deprived communities. OMAP has also identified abused women as 'silent victims' to an 'unfair world' where interest of men tend to over ride that of women. OMAP is very focused on the need to provide facilities in buildings and equipment to enhance the quality of education for the communities we target. There is also a process to identify abused women so as to counsel and support them to handle challenges they may be facing in life. OMAP has also been concerned with the level of unemployment among the women in deprived communities and has over the years set up income generating schemes as key intervention strategy to address the level of poverty among the women. In its contribution to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, OMAP has set up a Virgins' Club to protect the next generations. OMAP has successfully implemented similar projects in the Upper-East Region of Ghana.

### **B. THE PROBLEM**

OMAP has selected Gomoa Tekyiam, a small town in the Gomoa East District of the Central Region about ten (10) kilometers from Winneba. The town is located on the Potsin Road towards Agona Swedru. The town is located at the centre of over five small settlements with a population of about 3,000. The main occupation of these people is farming. Poverty is deep with the children at the receiving end. '*Child Neglect*' is a worsening phenomenon practiced in the community due to irresponsible parenting and ignorance. School drop rate is very high with its attendant high teenage pregnancy. There is no school at Gomoa Tekyiam. Children have to walk over six kilometers to attend school. Such a situation is fueling the truancy problem among the children of school going age and leading to the rising illiteracy and delinquency rate. Medical care among the children less than ten is a privilege than a right. A survey on '*Health Neglect*' conducted in the community by OMAP in collaboration with local volunteers from the Traditional Council and the Social Welfare department under the District Assembly has revealed that out of 500 kids below 10 in School and out of School, over 90% have never seen a dentist before and do not even know what dentists do. The children suffer from wide range of dental disorders of which tooth decay and lips infections are the most common. The children below 15 have physique of 6 year olds. Those below 8 have dry and skinny bodies with protruding bellies. These symptoms clearly suggest serious cases of malnutrition, 'worms banks' in their bellies and suspected cases of Kwashiokor.



### C. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

OMAP seeks to assist the community by:

1. Promoting the use of local dishes that are rich in protein and other body building nutrients to support the growth of the children.
2. Educating the parents in responsible parenting and support the children to maintain high sense of personal hygiene through regular dental and health screening sessions.
3. Undertake counseling and advocacy sessions for abused women and their families and create awareness among the people on their roles and responsibilities towards their children.

### D. EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES:

#### 1. Weekly Counseling of Parents of the Children

A resource person is invited every Sunday to meet an Association of parents of the children who meet to discuss their problems and the way forward;

#### 2. Health Screening sessions

A Health Screening programme has been designed in collaboration with the District Directorate of the Ghana Health Services and the District Assembly to check the health status of the most vulnerable of the children in the community.

#### 3. Promotion of Healthy Lifestyle

During these Screening sessions, children are given free dental/health examination and based antibiotics, pain killers, malaria tablets, de-wormers, etc. Their people are sensitized in the quality of local foods and the correct processing techniques to ensure that the body gains the maximum value when chosen as diets.

#### 4. Virgins Club

The experiences of the Women abused in life, particularly sexually, and those who have experienced abortions and teenage pregnancy challenges in life are used as testimonies for members of the club to learn from.

### E. WHAT ARE WE DOING UNDER THIS PROJECT

OMAP has designed a two day community oral health check programme in collaboration with the District Assembly and the District Health Directorate.