



WORLD AIDS DAY 2024

HEALTH WALK & AIDS RALLY

THEME

TAKE THE RIGHTS PATH
#EndAIDSNow



GHANA HIV & AIDS NETWORK (GHANET)



SATURDAY
23RD NOVEMBER, 2024



6AM TO 10AM



NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
2,000(est.)



STARTING - FINISHING POINT
OBRA SPOT, KWAME NKRUMAH
INTERCHANGE



ENDING POINT
OSEKAN PARK
(OFF JOHN EVANS ATTA MILLS
HIGH STREET)



SIDE ATTRACTIONS

- Brass band and "Kolomashi" music
- Face and body painting
- Aerobics
- Colour splashing
- Kenkey party
- Free TShirts
- Free condoms
- Free HIV self-testing kits
- Live performance by Nii Funny & Papillon Blood
- Networking opportunities



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On November 23, 2024, GHANET organized a World AIDS Day 2024 Health Walk and AIDS Rally to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS in Ghana as part of activities to commemorate World AIDS Day 2024 under the theme “TAKE THE RIGHTS PATH”. The event began at 6:30 am at Obra Spot in the Ayawaso Central Municipal Assembly and ended at Osekan Park in the Korle Klottey Municipal Assembly. The walk brought together 2,000 participants to promote awareness, encourage testing, and reduce the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS in the community.

OBJECTIVES

- **Raise Awareness:** Increase public awareness about HIV/AIDS and its impact, while promoting healthy living and reducing stigma associated with the disease.
- **Foster Community Engagement:** Encourage community participation and solidarity in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

- **Promote Advocacy:** Create a platform for political party leaders to publicly commit to policies that improve the lives of people living with and affected by HIV. These commitments include:
 - Ensuring better access to HIV treatment.
 - Increasing funding for prevention programs.
 - Eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B.
 - Supporting ICASA 2024 initiatives.
- **Encourage Action:** Mobilize participants to collectively demand accountability and action from leaders to end the HIV epidemic.
- **Support Inclusion:** Demonstrate solidarity and support for individuals living with HIV, emphasizing the message that no one should be left behind in the fight against the epidemic.



KEY PARTICIPANTS

The health walk attracted approximately 2,000 participants, including prominent dignitaries from various sectors who demonstrated their commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS. Key attendees included: Dr. Kyeremeh Atuahene (Director-General, Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC)), Dr. Stephen Ayisi Addo (Programme Manager, National AIDS/STI Control Programme (NACP)), Mr. Samuel Danquah (Country Representative, Abbott), Ms. Masego Kotane (Marketing Manager, Abbott, ARDX), Mr. Franklin Asiedu-Bekoe (Director, Public Health, Ghana Health Service (GHS)), Mr. Bright Amisah-Nyarko (Chairman, Coalition of NGOs in Health), Mrs. Elsie Ayeh (President, Network of Persons Living with HIV (NAP+)), Dr. Winfred Baah (National Democratic Congress (NDC)), Mr. George Amoah (Great Consolidated Popular Party (GCPP)), Mr. Wayoe Ghanamanti (Convention People's Party (CPP)), Lady Nana Yaa Nsarko (Miss Malaika 2023 and National HIV Youth Ambassador), Mr. Alfred Kotey Ashie (Parliamentary Candidate, National Democratic Congress (NDC), Odododiodioo Constituency), Mr. Ernest Amoabeng Ortsin (President, GHANET), and Mrs. Victoria Araba Dadzie Dennis (Vice President, GHANET).



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Kyeremeh Atuahene, GAC, emphasized two key points that:

- Over 98% of Ghanaians are HIV-negative, and efforts should focus on maintaining this statistic by preventing new infections.
- It is essential to ensure that individuals living with HIV have access to life-saving prevention, treatment, and care services.

Dr. Stephen Ayisi Addo highlighted the ongoing challenges of HIV/AIDS, including the rise in new infections despite the availability of treatments. He noted that deaths from HIV-related causes persist due to ignorance, complacency, and lack of proper care. He urged the public to remain vigilant by practicing safe behaviors such as condom use, faithfulness to partners, and delaying sexual activity, especially among young people.





Ms. Masego Kotane, representing Abbot, expressed the company's pride in sponsoring the health walk for two consecutive years. She emphasized the importance of HIV testing and the pivotal role of HIV Self-Testing in encouraging individuals to know their status.

Mrs. Elsie Ayeh, highlighted the significant stigma faced by persons living with HIV, particularly within healthcare settings. She used the platform to call for an end to this stigma, sharing her personal experience as someone who has lived with HIV for nearly 30 years. "Next year, I will have lived with HIV for 30 years, and I'm doing well. I am on treatment, so I urge everyone to stop the stigma and allow us to take our medications, feel strong, and contribute to the country's growth," she said.

Mr. Bright Amissah-Nyarko, emphasized the importance of ensuring the uninterrupted flow of essential commodities and resources needed in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Winfred Baah, spoke on behalf of the political party, outlining their plans to fully fund the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) if elected, with a particular focus on increasing support for HIV care.



Ms. Masego Kotane
(Marketing Manager, Abbott, ARDX)



Mrs. Elsie Ayeh
(President, Network of Persons Living with HIV (NAP+))



Mr. Bright Amissah-Nyarko
(Chairman, Coalition of NGOs in Health)



Dr. Winfred Baah
(National Democratic Congress (NDC))



Mr. George Amoah, also made commitments regarding the production of HIV treatment drugs locally if his party is voted into power, emphasizing the need for self-sufficiency in the production of HIV medications.

Mr. Woyoe Ghanamanti of the Convention People's Party (CPP) pledged that their party would implement HIV education programs in schools to prevent the younger generation from engaging in behaviors that contribute to the spread of the virus.

Lastly, Lady Nana Yaa Nsarko, National HIV Youth Ambassador, called on the youth to unite in the fight against HIV, stressing the importance of collective action in combatting the epidemic.



Mr. George Amoah
(Great Consolidated Popular Party (GCPP))



Mr. Wayoe Ghanamanti
(Convention People's Party (CPP))



Lady Nana Yaa Nsarko,
(Miss Malaika 2023 and National HIV Youth Ambassador)

SUMMARY

The World AIDS Day 2024 Health Walk and AIDS Rally served as a powerful platform to educate the public, foster unity, and advocate for effective policies to combat HIV/AIDS in Ghana. The participation of key stakeholders, coupled with the vibrant kenkey party and musical performances, underscored the importance of community involvement and youth engagement. As Ghana works towards ending the HIV epidemic, it is evident that collaborative efforts from government, civil society, and the private sector remain critical in addressing the challenges posed by the disease.









