

# INNOVATION AND ITS IMPACT ON HEALTHCARE AND COMMUNITY

## INTRODUCTION

Frank began his journey as a Community Health Officer (CHO) on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 after a transformative training conducted by the Bono Regional Health Directorate.

The aim of the training is to equip him with the skills to treat minor ailments, mobilize communities, enhance community participation and involvement, and become innovative in the implementation of the Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) strategy.

This opportunity was a stepping stone to make a difference in their respective districts and strengthening CHPS activities.

## PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED AND INNOVATIVE MEASURES TAKEN

1. Unrealistic target population – as sceptical as he was, he developed a community register. This intervention revealed the community comprised of 183 settlements with 1,824 residents in and around Yaw Barima Krom.

Picture indicating a household registration



2. Poor facility patronage and interpersonal relationship between the community members, healthcare center and staff – to bridge that gap, it was prudent drew closer to the people and establish a good relationship. He visited all households including hamlets. To build their trust in him and the facility, he took every opportunity including joining them in activities they prioritize in order to have access to them.



3. Poor health seeking behaviour – community members especially pregnant women, always delay in seeking healthcare. This attitude resulted in a lot of preventable deaths and disabilities. To curb this, he established “one household one doctor” initiative. Every household selected one person whom he trained to identify health issues and promptly bring the sick to the facility for early services and also discourage any member of the household who practices other things aside CHPS care to get well when they feel sick.
4. Debilitated CHPS compound – riding on the confidence developed by community in him, he created in them the sense of ownership of the facility and built their desire to make it better. They immediately heeded



to the call on them to help support him in renovating the facility as well as the nurses quarters.



5. No portable water for staff and an under tree Child Welfare Clinic (CWC) – he strategized by using the Community Health action Plan (CHAP) to alert the community to appreciate the further needs of the facility and for them to resolve the need out of their own free will. The leaders of the community supported the borehole and CWC project successfully.







## CHAP Implementation



*This stucture was put up by the community with the bricks they mold as CWC unit, initially they were having it under a mango tree.*

6. Difficulty in referring patients for further care – Frank wrote a proposal to the Dormaa East District Assembly for any means of transportation to help him in referring patients. His proposal was speedily granted due to the rumours they have heard about his incredible contribution to

healthcare in that enclave from the members of the community and leaders of nearby communities.

**Picture – means of transportation for referred patients**



## **Recognition and Real-Life Impact**

As a result of his dedication and community-oriented work, the Chief and leaders of Yaw Berima Krom officially recognized his efforts with a letter of commendation to the District Health Directorate.

**One of the most impactful** moments came on May 8th, 2025, when a community member suffered a severe cutlass wound. Upon arresting bleeding and referring client for further care, he vehemently refused and insisted he was going home to do herbal treatment which would have led to dire consequences. All his insistent to convince him yielded on deaf ears hence Frank relied on his training and team members to control the bleeding, sutured the wound on-site, and saved a life.

**The stage of wound on arrival, during suturing and after 2 weeks of care.**





## Giving Back Through Facilitation

Seven years (7) after his initial CHO training, from May 25 to June 1, 2025, he was honoured to serve as a facilitator during another CHO training organized by the Bono region. Frank's inclusion was based on his practical experience, the successes and commitment to healthcare delivery. And was recognized as the only trained CHO who has impacted massively in healthcare with robust successes and recommendations.

### Picture of me facilitating in CHO training



## Conclusion;

Even though he works in a remote community and face many challenges, his impact is real and lasting. All the interventions implemented has over the years proven impactful and has skyrocketed the number of the clinic attendees and a good lasting relationship between the communities and health staff. I pray the Good Lord continues to strengthen him as he serves the sick and underserved, especially in rural areas. This journey is not just about health—it's about hope, humanity, and healing.



