UNOPS delivers 24,790 HIV test kits to Ghana Health Service

$1,100,000 worth of HIV Rapid Diagnostic Kits mobilized by the Global Fund.

On 09 February 2021, a handing-over ceremony was held to mark the delivery of 24,790 units of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Rapid Diagnostic Kits (RDTs) to the Ghana Health Services (GHS). The procurement of HIV test kits, worth $1,100,000, was financed from the Global Fund through the West Africa Project to Combat AIDS and STI (WAPCAS) to the Ghana Health Service (GHS). Detecting the risk of this imminent stock out, the UN in Ghana under the Resident Coordinator mobilized the capabilities of its agencies UNAIDS and UNOPS to provide the needed support to the government in the spirit of delivering as one. In responding to the request, UNOPS leveraged its Emergency Procurement Procedures to procure the supplies essential for supporting Ghana’s efforts in fighting the HIV disease and ensuring uninterrupted life-saving HIV services.

The handing-over ceremony was held at the Public Health Center at Korle-Bu in Accra. The items consist of 6,570 units of First Response HIV 1-2-0 Card Test Kit, 16,700 units of First Response HIV 1+2 / Syphilis Combo Card Test Kit, and 1,520 units of HIV 1+2 - OraQuick HIV Self-Test Kit. These HIV rapid diagnostic kits are expected to play a vital role in decentralising testing and reaching remote communities in the country by producing a test result quickly, usually in less than 30 minutes. The procured HIV test kits are to be distributed to communities throughout the country to assess the level of infection in the communities.

The ceremony was attended by Dr. Franklin Asiedu-Bekoe, Director Public Health (representing the Director General of GHS), Ms. Angela Trenton-Mbonde, Country Director of UNAIDS, Mr. Emmanuel Mahama M&E and Research Manager of WAPCAS, (representing Country Director of WAPCAS) and Ifeoma Charles-Monwuba, Director and Representative of UNOPS.

In handing over the kits, Mr. Emmanuel Mahama M&E and Research Manager of WAPCAS stated “the GHS through NACP requested for support from The Global Fund to procure HIV RDTs for Ghana because of the imminent stock out. WAPCAS was therefore contacted to help. Knowing the importance of the request and due to our long standing relationship with the GHS, we accepted to use part of our grant funds (about 1.1million dollars) to procure the RDTs through UNOPS. And we are happy to be here today to hand over the test kits to the GHS.”
Receiving the supplies for RDTs, Dr. Franklin Asiedu-Bekoe, Director of Public Health of GHS said “On behalf of the Director General of GHS and the minister of Minister of Health, I want to express our gratitude to WAPCAS, The Global Fund, and UNAIDS that they have been supportive of the country in addressing HIV, Malaria and TB over the years. Let me also conclude by saying that UNOPS has been instrumental for logistics of the test kits and provided us with the access of HIV test kits as urgently as possible.”

Ifeoma Charles-Monwuba, Director and Representative of UNOPS stated “In line with UNOPS mandate on procurement, UNOPS remains ever ready to deploy its emergency procurement procedures to support the government of Ghana and other development partners in providing needed services to the people.”

Ms. Angela Trenton-Mbonde, Country Director of UNAIDS said “I’m really delighted to be here at this handing over ceremony for the supply of HIV test kits to the Ghana Health Service, which I consider to be a life-saving commodity. And it also shows how the UN agencies in Ghana are utilising our expertise and working in a joint manner to serve the government and the people of Ghana.”
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About UNOPS

UNOPS mission is to help people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement in an efficient way. Read more: www.unops.org

About any partner mentioned in the press release

The Ghana-West Africa Program to Combat AIDS and STI (WAPCAS) commenced operations in Ghana in 1996 with support from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to implement an STI/HIV intervention program, for Most-At-Risk Populations (MARPS) now Key Populations (KP), in nine West African countries. Read more: http://www.wapcas.org/

The Ghana Health Service (GHS) is a Public Service body established under Act 525 of 1996 as required by the 1992 constitution. The mandate of the GHS is to provide and prudently manage comprehensive and accessible health service with special emphasis on primary health care at regional, district and sub-district levels in accordance with approved national policies. Read more: www.ghanahealthservice.org/

UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, is an innovative partnership that leads and inspires the world in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Read more: https://www.unaids.org/