



Here is your mother!

FACTSHEET: APPEAL DETAILS AND COUNTRY INFORMATION



Welsh Baptists support mothers in Ghana

Maternal health in northern Ghana

Ghana is becoming one of Africa's success stories – it has a stable democracy and is growing economically, having set itself the goal of becoming a developed country by 2029.

Ghana is also making progress in maternal health. According to a publication by the United Nations Agencies led by the Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group (MMEIG), maternal mortality rate in Ghana declined by 49% between 1990 and 2013. In 1990, in every 100,000 live childbirths, 760 mothers died. The number of deaths reduced dramatically in 2013 to 380, but this figure is still too high and is considerably far from the Millennium Development Goal target of 150 deaths. Despite the progress, there is much inequality in Ghana and its rural regions in the north are particularly poor. One aspect of the inequality is that while maternal deaths are lower in the regions near the capital Accra, they are considerably higher in the regions further away.

Behind each statistic is a deeply traumatised family experiencing loss and bereavement. Christian Aid believes that this can change – and with your help, we will achieve it.

One key to ensuring that Ghana meets its target is through urging the government to fairly distribute health services throughout the country. Women in particular in the three northern regions are affected by social exclusion. There is a distinct lack of participation in politics in these areas, meaning that the government is not held accountable.

How your gifts will be used

Your gifts will help fund a project that will support the organisation and training of citizens and women in particular to engage with both local and national government and bring about the change that is needed through prudent spending on maternal health in these regions.

In partnership with SEND Ghana

Christian Aid has been working with Social Enterprise and Development Foundation Ghana (SEND Ghana) for more than 15 years. We will be working in partnership with SEND Ghana to implement the Maternal Health project in northern Ghana.

Here in Wales we know well enough how to lobby government and bring about change: we write to our MPs or AMs; we write letters to the local press; we gather names on petitions. But Ghana is a young democracy and most citizens have little experience of this kind of work. Many of them do not have adequate information on policies, entitlements and rights, to be in a better position to make the right demands from government to ensure that women do not die because of unavailability of health services.

This is where SEND Ghana can make a difference.

SEND Ghana will inform, train, encourage, gather information and help the ordinary person to speak up for his or her community.



How SEND Ghana will use your gifts

Provide education on maternal health

One important aspect of the work is to train local people about what good maternal health actually looks like when it is properly funded. Living in traditional villages far away from the more developed urban centres, women have little concept of what health professionals can do to make their pregnancies safer. SEND Ghana will prepare teaching materials and train 'community champions' to go to these communities and train people about maternal health. By having this knowledge they will then be in a better position to demand change from their government.



Provide education on taxation and spending

SEND Ghana will train people on the issue of taxation. They will learn how the government raises revenue and how it then decides to spend it. Most people in Ghana pay taxes in different forms at the local and national levels. This training will enable them to identify where their taxes are currently spent and enable them to better lobby government to increase spending on maternal health in their districts.

Monitoring, a key aspect of holding governments to account, will take place following lobbying, and SEND Ghana will teach people how to monitor the government's spending.

Provide education on expected levels of professionalism of health staff

A lack of professionalism among some health staff members has not been conducive to good maternal health. For example, some women have found that even though they have brought their own disinfectant in preparation for the delivery of their babies, they have also been made to buy such materials from the nurses at the hospital. In other cases, ambulance drivers have been known to ask for money for their services from the mothers. Not knowing that such practices are wrong has either further impoverished families or put them off from seeking maternal health services altogether.

By demanding a fair distribution of maternal services throughout the country and in the northern regions in particular, SEND Ghana believes that the health of mothers and children will be raised considerably, leading to better outcomes and more fulfilled lives.

Financial details

We aim to raise £40,000. The really exciting aspect of our appeal is that if we achieve this aim we will be able to drawdown €500,000 of match funding from the European Commission who are supporting the project until the end of January 2017. This will make a huge difference to the mothers of Ghana!

As you raise the funds in your church we ask that you send them to the denomination's head office in Carmarthen. Please make cheques payable to 'The Baptist Union of Wales' and send to: BUW, Y Llwyfan, College Road, Carmarthen, SA31 3EQ, and mark the envelope 'Ghana Appeal'.

