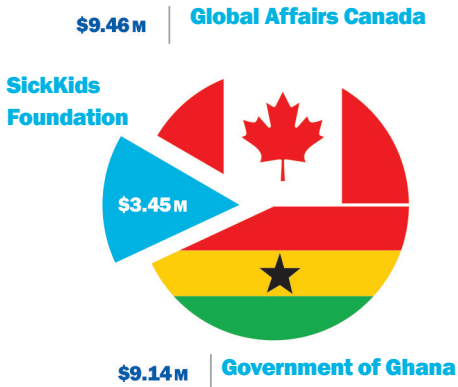


“With our partners, we have been collaboratively laying the groundwork for a national scale-up strategy of paediatric nursing in Ghana.”

~Dr. Stanley Zlotkin  
Chief, Centre for Global  
Child Health



A Paediatric Associate practising a bowel exam

**BUILDING CAPACITY**  
*in the next generation of health-care providers*

## TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE OF CHILD HEALTH

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE SICKKIDS-GHANA INITIATIVE. YOUR SUPPORT HAS ENABLED US TO SCALE UP THE FIRST SPECIALIZED PAEDIATRIC NURSING TRAINING PROGRAM IN ALL OF WEST AFRICA. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN IN GHANA.**

**C** **CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACCOUNT FOR 40 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION IN**  
Ghana and yet there are very few health-care providers who are sufficiently trained to address the specialized needs of children. As a result, more than 54,000 newborns and children under the age of five die each year in Ghana – often as a result of preventable illnesses such as pneumonia, malaria and diarrhea-related diseases. In a country of more than 25.9 million people, there are only 10.2 doctors, nurses and midwives per 10,000 people. Building resources in the area of health-care is a top priority for Ghana. With your generous donation, and the support of local and international partners, this challenge is one that Ghana will overcome.

**PROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS**  
Over the past year, the SickKids-Ghana Initiative has made exciting progress. As a result of your support, the first cohort of nurses began the Paediatric Associate Program in May 2016 in Accra.

A great deal of work has been done in the last year to build the capacity of teams at SickKids and the local implementing partner, the Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives (GCNM), in order to put in place the necessary resources to successfully launch the program. This has been made possible through your support as well as a financial commitment from Global Affairs Canada, along with Ghana’s Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Services.

**PAEDIATRIC HEALTH TRAINING**  
Your funding has supported meaningful investments in human resources, infrastructure (telecommunications, classrooms, simulation equipment), curriculum development and faculty training, laying the groundwork for a national health-care strategy for paediatric nursing in Ghana.

The program involves 46 weeks of instruction and active learning delivered by a team-teaching approach with educators from both Ghana and Canada. Training is split into two blocks, each of which consists of six weeks of interactive classroom teaching, three weeks of exams, and 13 weeks of hands-on practicum, including an internship in the students’ home facility.

The first block of teaching covers: primary health care for children and adolescents, managing the sick child in the community, and trends and policies in paediatric care.

Training currently offered only in Accra is being scaled up to two other cities in Ghana to improve nurses’ access to specialized training. Nurses were recruited from all 10 regions of Ghana to equitably distribute the future paediatric nursing skill set. Upon graduation, the paediatric nurses will return to their communities to provide specialized paediatric care to patients and families while training and mentoring their nursing colleagues and advocating for children’s health.

“I want to acquire more knowledge and gain more skills to care for the babies in my unit so I’ll be able to save lives. Babies are precious and just one minute of intervention can save a baby’s life.”  
~Perfect, Volta Region  
SickKids-Ghana Initiative Paediatric Associate

**HEALTH OUTCOMES**  
This investment will contribute immediate and on-going improvements to child morbidity and mortality in Ghana.  
  
Specifically, this Initiative will address gaps in care such as:

- *Malnutrition:* Nutritional deficiencies in Ghana are associated with 55 per cent of mortality in children. A lack of nutrients can cause stunted growth, low weight and an increased risk of disease.
- *Sickle Cell Disease:* About 1 in 50 children are born with this genetic blood disorder in Ghana and of those, half will die before the age of five without medical intervention.
- *Neonatal care:* Neonatal deaths account for about 40 per cent of deaths of children under five in Ghana.

**THE FUTURE**  
By May 2020, the SickKids-Ghana Initiative will have trained 25 clinical nurse educators and enrolled 500 nurses in the one year Paediatric Associate Program across three training sites. Additionally, 1,000 nurses, midwives and community health officers will be trained through a number of continuing professional development courses, designed to address the highest needs of Ghanaian children.

With the successful launch of classes in May, the focus will shift to the second training city, Tamale, in the fall of

2016 which will serve as a hub for the northern part of the country. In 2017, the program will launch in a third city, Kumasi, which will serve as a hub for the central region of the country. Nurses trained through this program will go on to become paediatric leaders in their communities and active advocates for child health.

**THANK YOU**  
Your support has been critical to the success of this Initiative, which is dramatically transforming paediatric nursing education and improving child health in Ghana. As we celebrate the launch of our Paediatric Associate Program in Accra, and embark on launching in additional cities, the impact of your investment will continue to grow. Thank you for your generosity and for sharing our forward-looking vision: Healthier Children. A Better World.

**SCALING UP PAEDIATRIC NURSING IN GHANA**

