



THE 1CHILD_1NHIS PROJECTS

BACKGROUND

This project seeks to register children under 18 onto the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) of Ghana so they can access free basic healthcare and other benefits associated with this card.

This project also helps widen the scope of the Ghana Universal Health Coverage Goal for rural communities. This is to enhance early detection and treatment of sicknesses.

The focus of this year is to provide 5,000 National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) cards to children and pregnant women, which came as a result of the overwhelming numbers of devastating and debilitating health cases and other health related conditions we receive daily. Majority of these cases become deteriorated because the people are not able to foot the hospital bills or are afraid of going to the hospital because of huge sums of money they will have to pay. We are always face with consistent records of life-threatening cases and people not able to pay hospital bills. In order to curb this and avoid worsening of conditions as well as give people the opportunity to go to the hospital on time, we provided them with the NHIS cards. The NHIS cards we believe will ease this fear and make the people access healthcare on time and also reduce the number of fatalities and disabilities as well as ease the burden on the support groups.

Interviews with people in the selected communities proved to us that, greater percentage of pregnant women do not know that NHIS cards for pregnant women is free, so they complain of not having enough money to do it and hence do not attend Antenatal care which sometimes causes health problems for either the mother, baby or both. Also, majority of the children (aged 3 months to 17 years) do not have the cards, this is resulting in most of them staying in the house when sick which may worsen the condition. Good health in childhood has great impact in adulthood health and has great impact on productivity and a country's economy. Most of the situations that sometime almost get out of hand could be avoided when detected early especially when they have the NHIS cards available for hospital attendance. It became apparent to us during one of our financial support programs in March 2021 when we came across a family in rural Denkyera without health insurance cards and suffering from severe malnutrition. We funded making cards for the whole family and hence took it up to do same for more than 1,000 children across the rural areas of Northern region, paying attention to Tamale metro, Sagnarigu municipal and the Savannah region with the intention of spreading to other areas when the fields are green. Coupled with this registration will be health education and the need

to visit the hospital regularly and the importance of the card they possess. We also teach them the phone process of card renewal so that their cards will be up to date. Cards expire after one year of use and subject to renewal.

THE PROJECT GOAL (IMPACT)

To improve the health and well-being of individuals and groups in the communities leading them to become productive people in the society for growth and development.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide people with life-saving avenues and avoid worsening of conditions by providing them NHIS cards to access health care on time.
- To improve health and well-being of people by increasing hospital attendance through health education and sensitization.
- To enable people stay in touch with hospitals for regular check-ups by giving them health education and teaching them the process and timely renewal of their NHIS cards.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Successfully registered 1,742 children onto the Scheme
2. Handed over 1,742 cards to the parents of the children to access free basic healthcare
3. Visited 14 rural communities in 4 regions in Ghana
4. Worked in collaboration with 6 district offices of National Health Insurance Scheme across Ghana.
5. Renewed about 500 school children cards to continue to use the card.

BENEFICIARY COMMUNITIES SO FAR

1. Zozugu
2. Kpene
3. Namandu
4. Kpanvo
5. Cheshe
6. Guunaayili
7. Dimala
8. Dugshegu

9. Ngaring
10. Busunu
11. Bari
12. Kulnyevilla
13. Yapei
14. Jonokponto

RENEWAL OF CARDS FOR THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL CHILDREN

1. Zogbeli Block A, B, C and D primary school
2. Fatima Farida primary school



Caption: NHIS official capturing unregistered child with the help of the mother at the back of the seat.



Caption: First batch of Busunu community children happily received their NHIS card.



Second batch of Cheshe community children happily received their cards with their mothers.



The Chief of Kpanvo visited the MHP team when we were at his community registering the children.

CHALLENGES

1. Faulty machines at the District offices of NHIS slows down our work and coverage
2. Lack of enough funds to provide volunteers with stipends
3. Network challenges in remote communities
4. Shortage of cards to be printed after registration.
5. Inadequate volunteers to help while registration is going on.
6. Lack of financial resources to cover the youth above 18.

CONCLUSION

Health issues among children can be very depressing to hear or experience, but the good side of it is that if detected early, treatment is highly possible. That is why the Health Insurance cards covers majority of illnesses that affect children including some surgeries. We are very sure that if a mother takes her child to the hospital timely without any fear of financial issues, many sicknesses can be detected early and treated before it is worsened.