

**Ghana Rural Integrated Development  
Leyaata Project**

# **Helping Babies Breathe Training Report**

**November 25-29, 2013**



Report Date: January 2014

## Leyaata Project Background

GRID and NEA are implementing the DFATD-funded Leyaata (“Rescue Us”) Project (2012-2014). This project aims to reduce maternal, infant and child mortality in 49 marginalized villages in north Kintampo and south Bole districts of Ghana. Program components include: (1) establishing a prenatal and neonatal home visit system for pregnant women and infants, and (2) launching a malaria control program that prioritizes mothers and infants. As of the date of this report, the Leyaata Project has been able to reduce by two-thirds the neonate mortality rate in 49 project villages, and is expanding the program to another 33 villages.

One of the project’s supporting objectives is to equip birth attendants in the project area to provide low-resource antenatal care and infant resuscitation. By providing training to birth attendants in the Leyaata Project catchment area, GRID and NEA expect to improve access to skilled assisted delivery for mothers in 82 villages in Bole and Kintampo Districts.

## Helping Babies Breathe (HBB) Program

According to UNICEF, 25% of neonatal deaths are caused by birth asphyxia (2007). In addition to this, 3 million babies worldwide are termed “stillbirth,” when many of these babies could be saved with simple measures. Helping Babies Breathe (HBB)<sup>1</sup> is an evidence-based program endorsed by WHO that is designed to reduce newborn mortality due to asphyxia. By training birth attendants from the Leyaata Project catchment area in the HBB program, GRID and NEA conservatively estimated that we can prevent an additional 50 stillbirths and 10 neonatal deaths.

## Leyaata Project HBB Training

### Master Trainers

Dr. Jennifer Wilson and Susan Fockler traveled to Ghana as HBB trainers. Both of these women had participated in the HBB training program, have extensive experience in providing health care in the Leyaata Project catchment area, and have existing professional relationships with project staff and local health personnel. In addition to these qualifications, they both spent two weeks working at a nearby hospital, where they were able to observe current delivery and emergency obstetric practices.



**Dr. Ben (Wenchi Hospital), Susan (RPh, BScPhm, ACPR), Eric (Nurse Anaesthetist, Wenchi Hospital), Dr. Jennifer (MD CCFP(EM))**

<sup>1</sup> For more information about Helping Babies Breathe, see <http://www.helpingbabiesbreathe.org/>

## HBB Facilitator Training

In order to make this training as effective and sustainable in the long-term as possible, Dr. Jennifer and Susan spent the first two days training select local Ghanaian health professionals to become HBB Facilitators. These six professionals participated in two days of rigorous training to understand the HBB program and learn how to facilitate it. At the completion of the two days, facilitators were required to pass a written examination, a skills station examination, and two practical oral examinations. All six successfully completed the training.



**Skill stations were used for teaching and testing.**



**Six trained HBB Facilitators, along with Layaata Project Trainers Dr. Jennifer and Susan, Layaata Staff Dela and Akosua, NEA Director Dr. Mensah, and NEA Coordinator Brenda**

## HBB Provider Training

After the six HBB facilitators were trained, twenty-seven local birth attendants arrived at the project site for the HBB Provider training. The six newly-trained facilitators were involved in training the large group of participants, under the supervision of Dr. Wilson and Ms. Fockler. Participants spent part of the training in small groups with an HBB facilitator.



**Newly trained HBB facilitators led small group training sessions.**

Each of the twenty-seven participants participated in one full day of HBB training, after which they were required to pass a written examination, skills station, and oral examination. Every participant successfully passed the program, and was provided with equipment for their clinics and a kit to practice the skills learned.



**Role playing was an important component of the training program.**

## Emergency Obstetric Training

In addition to the HBB training, all 33 participants (representing 27 facilities) participated in a half-day intensive workshop on Post Partum Hemorrhage and Shoulder Dystocia. Participants received manuals to enable further self-study on these important topics. This is an area of further training opportunity in the future.



**Leyaata Project HBB and Emergency Obstetrics Training Participants**

## Observations and Feedback

Rarely is a training program so enthusiastically anticipated and received as the HBB Program has been in this area of Northern Ghana. Because Dr. Jennifer and Susan were able to spend two weeks in a local hospital, where they successfully implemented the HBB method to resuscitate ten “stillborn” infants, local health professionals were already convinced of the value of the program. Professionals from that hospital insisted on participating in and endorsing the program.

Since the training, the Bole District Director of Medical Services has contacted NEA, indicating that he wanted to start training of the other health professionals in the northern half of the district next week. He explained that Bole District participants just kept ‘filling his ears’ with the quality and importance of the training they received, and he doesn’t want his other health workers left out.

## Follow-Up Monitoring

Participants in the HBB program were given tracking sheets to monitor the impact of this program. Leyaata project staff plan to visit each site every three months to collect these sheets and to discuss the program with birth attendants.

## Annex A: 2014 Leyaata Project HBB Training Participants

Name	Title	Facility
Comfort Asamoah	Midwifery Officer	New Longoro Health Centre
Grace L. Diedong	Principal Midwifery Officer	Bole District Hospital
Ernestina Agyei Yobo	Deputy Chief Physician Assistant	Chiraa Health Centre
Collins Asomah	Community Health Nurse	Carpenter CHPS
Mariama Katribi	Disease Control Officer	Banda Nkwanta CHPS
Beatrice Frimpong	Midwifery Officer	Wenchi Methodist Hospital
Vivian A. Saasi	Midwifery Officer	Jema Hospital
Vida Obeng Owusu	Staff Midwife	Jema Hospital
Susan Gedeh	Community Health Nurse	Asantekwa CHPS
Addai Agyemang Gloria	Community Health Nurse	Buswema Health Centre
Vera Sintim	Community Health Nurse	Baniantwe CHPS
Millicent Dapaah	Senior Staff Midwife	Kintampo Municipal Hospital
Abole Patricia	Staff Nurse	Kintampo Municipal Hospital
Agnes Obeng Amoako	Community Health Nurse	Ayorya CHPS
Alexandria Gbiel	Midwifery Officer	Wenchi Health Centre
Prudence Dery	Midwifery Superintendent	Subinso Health Centre
Miit Samuel Mijida	Principal Physician Assistant (Anaesthesia)	Bole District Hospital
Vitus Daanuba	Physician Assistant (Anaesthesia)	Bole District Hospital
Mary Gbolo	Deputy Director of Nursing Services	Bole District Hospital
Christina Zoobey	Senior Nursing Officer, Public Health	Bole District Health Directorate
Ayi Issah	Principal Midwifery Officer	Bamboi Health Centre
Linda Obeng	Staff Nurse	Wenchi Methodist Hospital
Eric Boateng	Physician Anaesthetist	Wenchi Methodist Hospital
Kassim Abubakari	Community Health Officer	Lowere/Gomboi CHPS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Facility</b>
Eric Asamoah	Community Health Nurse	Sabule CHPS
Belinda Achaliwe	Community Health Nurse	Kwame Kwesi CHPS
Ayelyine Ivy Akolpong	Community Health Nurse	Tinga Health Centre
Leticia Acheampong	Midwife	Mansie CHPS
Grace Buwah	Midwife	Jama Health Centre
Beauty Mekpor	Community Health Nurse	Wakawak CHPS
Kelly Rafiatu Priscilla	Community Health Nurse	Maluwe CHPS
Danso Philip Senior	Community Health Nurse	Chibrinyoa CHPS
Nsorh Florence	Community Health Nurse	New Longoro Health Centre