

2008 ACTIVITY PROGRESS REPORT
NEW SEED INTERNATIONAL (NSI)

INTRODUCTION;

This report is aimed at informing and communicating among all stakeholders involved and connected to New Seed International activities. Activities carry out during the period under review are based on the vision, objective and the goal of New Seed International.

As you may be aware, NSI has identified itself with improving the status of the poor, socio-economically marginalized people and specifically focusing on the young women. NSI is determined to guide and facilitate the transformation and emancipation of these target groups from the doldrums of poverty, hunger, disease, ignorance, injustice and all forms of inhuman deprivations

One area of prime concern to NSI is health and HIV/AIDS. NSI has for the past couple of years identified itself with promoting positive attitudinal and behavioural moulding, and transforming health and environmental issues which are paramount and key for sustainable development.

Acknowledgement

The success and achievement of the year under review couldn't be completed without tireless contributions and sacrifices by the following persons;

1. Nathaniel York, the Executive Director of Solace international. As years goes by, your personal dedication, time devotion, resource mobilization, technical and managerial support has set New Seed International on the best track for future development and sustainability. It is our hope to continue tremendous support until New Seed International will be one of the best organization dedicated to youth and rural development here in Ghana and the West Africa in general. The memorable trip to Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi was my greatest accomplishment of the century and I will never forget sharing ideas with great men such as Simon from Kenya, and the entire workforce at Malawi not forgetting the head of Malawi team, the Palestine and the wonderful wife.

2. New Seed International staff here at Ho, Officials of Department of Social Welfare, Volta Regional Office, the Municipal Director of Health Services-Ho and the entire team of Anti Retroviral drug administration center of the Volta Regional Hospital, not forgetting Dr. Ashinyo. Dr. Mensa and Dr. Preeko.

Overview of 2008 Activity

The following activities were carried out during the year under review;

1. Continuation of **Home Based Care and Support program**. Under Home Based Care and Support activity number of 146 new clients were added to the old number of 237. In all, the number of HIV/AIDS patients and orphans under our care and support is 523. Our Home visit team was able to visit at least 87% of the clients at their various homes. An amount of GH¢ 9,485.00 was spent on provision of food, feeding and food supplements, medication and vitamins, transportation, school fees, funds for income generating among others. As a result of the Home based Care and support program more and more people infected and affected with the AIDS virus and seeking counsel at NSI office every day for that matter families and relatives poor and negative attitude towards people living with AIDS is changing for good and more families and being responsibly now that some 2-3 years ago.
2. **Sokode Clinic (Patrick Byrne Clinic)**. In January 2008 the construction work at the clinic was completed, from 12 February 2008 the clinic was officially open and has since been providing free quality health care for under-privileged, deprived and needy people in and around Sokode Community. As at the end of December 2008, 412 patients of all kinds of diseases were treated, out of which 26% are HIV/AIDS orphans, 12% are HIV/AIDS related cases and 68% are comprised of pregnant women and malnutrition children. Though the clinic is just one year, educational programs developed by the management team of the clinic is encouraging the community people and beyond to visit the clinic for medical advice and support. It is observed that more of the people now understand the vision and objectives of New Seed International by creating a healthy environment of the rural people and patronage at the clinic is increasing gradually.
3. **Nursery Project**; Early childhood educational program (Nursery School) was started in January 2008 with 3 HIV/AIDS orphans, after completion of 4 unit classroom building. At the end of December 2008 the number has risen to 84, with an increase of HIV/AIDS orphans to 36, to avoid stigma and discrimination, the nursery is opened to the general public to create similar learning opportunities for all children and amount of 20 Ghana pesewa from other children whose parents are able to pay as a means of income generating. Due to low fares charged by the management, more parents especially single parent and teenage mothers are enrolling their wards in the school, it is also helping these mothers and some abandoned children to have a place to stay and place of fellowship during the day. Our provision of one good meal a day to supplement their feeding a day is also changing lives among these little ones.
4. **Orphanage Building**. The building of the orphanage is still under construction, the building is at lenti level and it is expected that when completed, 42 orphans will be accommodated and taken care of. The building should have been completed in December 2008 but due to heavy rain fall in the area coupled with rapid increase of raw materials. Work on the building is currently in progress, the building is expected to be completed by April 2009. An amount of \$4300.00 is still needed to complete the building to bring the unfortunate children under one roof. It is becoming very expensive to care for the orphans in individual care giver's homes with little supervision. It will be cost effective if the building is completed to accommodate the orphans.

5. **Skills Training and Enhancement Project;** Skills Training and Enhancement center is project aimed at equipping teenage mothers especially young girls without employable skills who engaged in commercial sex work for living. The project was designed to last for one year after which the trainees will be supported with work related materials to establish. As at the end of December 2008, 46 of the target people were mobilized to undergo courses such as Batik production, Sewing and dressmaking, bread and pastry baking. Due to economical hardship and difficulty in meeting basic needs, 28 of them have withdrawn and as at December 2008 only 18 of these people remain and will be passing out in March 2009.
6. **Income Generating;** a), To become self-reliant and self-sustaining, New Seed International is undertaking the following program as an income-generating project;
 - 500 fowls from our poultry farm will be ready for sale by the end of March 2009. The second batch of the 1000 layers and 500 broilers will soon start to create Employment Avenue for 8 active people living with HIV/AIDS.
 - Village project is an accommodation project aimed at providing low-cost accommodation for volunteers and other visitors who will wish to spend a night in a low-profile environment. The first part of the building of 6 unit rooms with 2 separate toilets and baths is ready for use and the second part will begin soon before the rains set in by March 2009.
7. **Staff Refresher Course;** To enhance the knowledge base of the staff to meet the challenge of helping New Seed International realize its goal, a 3-day capacity building workshop was held for 7 member staff at the clinic from 12 to 15 May 2008. During the 3 days, the staff were taken through team building, time management, inter-personal relations, identification of community development strategies among others. Facilitators were drawn from the Department of Social Welfare, Department of Planning, Department of Women and Children. The staffs at the nursery and the main office at Ho also attended the course from 21 to 23 July 2008. The staff refresher course is one way to motivate the staffs and sharpen their individual skills towards good results and realization of New Seed International's vision and mission. Staff refresher course has really helped to uplift staff inputs in all aspects of New Seed International activities.
8. **Community Outreach Program;** Awareness creation, sensitization and capacity building workshops were held in 12 out of 15 districts in the region to promote prevention of new infections among the rural and underserved population in the Volta Region. Topics discussed during these programs include modes of HIV/AIDS transmission, prevention, the role of voluntary counseling and testing, root causes of HIV/AIDS-related stigmatization, negative effects of stigmatization. We also educate the community about the availability of anti-retroviral drug (ART), use of the benefits of the ART among others. Movies and films on sexually transmitted infections are shown in all the communities the team visited. Movies and films on sexually transmitted infections are shown. The 5-member outreach team led by Emilia Emefa Adzimah comprises of 3 international volunteers and two permanent staff of New Seed International. More than 1000 rural dwellers benefited from this program and has helped to save the lives of over 164 people infected with the AIDS virus and were taken to secret places for healing and other purposes. Misconceptions about HIV/AIDS were dealt with and more people especially the youth had developed the courage to go in for voluntary counseling and testing to know their HIV/AIDS status. During the 2008 World AIDS (1st December) New

Seed International in collaboration with Volta Regional HIV/AIDS response Committee has organized talk show on prevention of Mother to Child prevention among teenagers who are pregnant living within Ho, Dzodze, Sokode, Abutia. At the end of the 3 days program most of the target people have better understanding by going for VCT.

9. **Other Activities;** We continue with the following activities;

- Distribution of food supplements donated by USAID through Catholic Relief Agency
- Friday ART center support program at the Volta Regional Hospital.
- Community education on HIV/AIDS and other terminally preventive strategies.
- The Executive Director of New Seed International has participated in some major workshops organized by Ghana AIDS Commission, Ghana Health Service, National AIDS Control Program and NGO Coalition of Health among others.
- December 2008, New Seed International had enter into partnership with Cosmic Volunteer the aim of the partnership is for New Seed International to access international volunteer to support our human resource towards effective program delivery.
- Press Conference was held to brief the media and the general public the difficulties people living with AIDS goes through and how to alleviate some of their suffering. (**Changing the HIV/AIDS strategic Landscape in Volta Region; Agenda for effective Action**)

Visitors;

The following category of personalities has paid working and familiarization visit to New Seed International.

- Official from Ho Municipal Health Directorate Ho, Netherlands International Health management team lead by SNV-Ghana, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Director, Monitory and Evaluation – Ghana AIDS Commission in person of Dr. Annie, Volta Regional Director of Environmental Protection Agency, The Municipal Director of Health Services in person of Dr. Eleeza. There are 16 international volunteers who visited us and worked with our staff in various areas of our operation.

Funding and Source of Funding for the year 2008

Source of Funding	Purpose of Funding	Total Amount of Funding GH ¢
Solace International	Construction Works (Clinic and Skills training Center)	15,846
Solace International	Staff Allowance	6,452
New Seed, U.S.A	Care and Support and Nursery educational project support	2,300
New Seed, U.S.A	Home based Care Support and orphanage construction.	9,565
Ariel Gala	Education Support	856,53
New Seed International, Main office-Ho	Home visit, utilities and administration management.	3,568
Total Amount of The Year 2008		38,587.53

Achievements of the Year 2008;

As stated above, much has been done to keep the vision and mission of New Seed International alive; so far, more people are realizing the potential of New Seed International and appreciating our efforts. It is our expectation that by the year 2012, New Seed International will grow to the level when we can operate more in other areas than now, and can be able to fund our own programs and support other community activities without seeking for external funding. Under individual programs the following were achieved;

Home Based Care and Support program; During the year under review 523 clients and their immediate families were reached, new orphans has been added to the list and whiles most of the people living with AIDS are women between the ages of 22 to 38 years.

Sokode Clinic; 385 patients of different illness have been treated at the clinic, majority of illness treated at the clinic is Malaria related cases and children between the age of 3 years to 9 years were the majority, follow by pregnant women. Most of these people were treated free since they can not afford the bills at other private or public clinics.

Nursery Project; As at the end of the year 2008 the number at the nursery has grown from 12 in January 2008 to 73 by the close of the year.

Orphanage; The orphanage building is still under construction and at almost roofing stage.

Skills Training and Enhancement Project; 38 young women aged between the ages of 25 to 32 have been trained and mastered in skills such as Batik, tie and dye, Sewing and dressmaking as well as baking and pastries. This group of will be graduating by the end of the March 2009.

Income Generating; Poultry farm was established to be our main income generating project with a start of 500 crockers birds, 358 has survived and will be ready for sell to the public from February 2009.

Staff Refresher Course; Over 6 years New Seed International has undergone refresher course a program which revives the staffs and keep them abreast of the task ahead. In all 9 staff benefited from the refresher course which last for 2 days,

Community Outreach Program; The community outreach program has helped the staffs to educate Sokode community about the best mode of HIV/AIDS prevention, effective ways to care for people infected and living with the AIDS virus. Education on condom use was intensified and more than 6000 pieces of condoms were distributed among the sexually active youth and other categories of the population

Other Activities; 18 needy children are supported to go to school by paying their school fees, provision of school uniforms, shoes and other educational materials. 8 People living with AIDS were supported to undertake income generating activities to help them meet their daily basic needs. Counseling on positive living were offered to 235 young people including 48 drug addicts and 23 sex workers within Ketu, Ho and Keta Districts of Volta Region.

Challenges of the Year 2008

- Continue increase of HIV/AIDS new infection cases.
- Inadequate funding is the main obstacle for our failure to meet targets set for the year 2008.
- Losing experience staffs due to inability to pay their monthly allowance on time.
- Clients disappointed due to continue inability to continue support for their medical bills, transportation and feeding.
- Increase our income and support based.

Needs in 2009

To overcome the challenges in the last year 2008, the following needs are expected to be met.

- Funds to meet the needs of the continuation of HIV/AIDS home based care as well as orphans care and support.
- Funds to Complete the orphanage and the village project
- An ambulance to serve the clinic as well as transportation for the nursery project
- Funds to improve on our facilities at the nursery. (e.g. feeding, toys and furniture)

Expectations of the Year 2009;

The management of New Seed International 2009 as the year of fulfillment, as a year of fulfillment, the following are expected to be accomplished;

- Completing the Village project.
- To accommodate the 28 orphans scattered within the Sokode community, and to be able to take more of the orphans and abandon children within Ho Municipality.
- To improve upon our income generating projects especially the poultry, village project, clinic and the nursery project.
- To wall the orphanage and the clinic building as means of maximum security to people and property at the place.