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**REPORT ON GIRLS IRON AND FOLATE TABLETS SUPPLIMENTATION
(GIFTS) SENSITIZATION**

INTRODUCTION

Anaemia is a common problem in adolescent girls and women in Ghana affecting 4 out of 10 women in reproductive age with Adolescent girls age 15-19 years having the highest prevalence of 48% (GDHS 2014).

The WHO guidelines recommend mass iron folic acid (IFA) supplementation for women where there is high prevalence of anaemia (> 40%).

In view of this the GHS/GES with support from UNICEF is initiating IFA supplementation is initiating IFA supplementation among adolescent girls and menstruating women. If such a program is impending, there is therefore the need for creating of awareness among the general public and the target population.

KEY MESSAGES FOR SENSITIZATION

- IFA will be given to adolescent girls (10-19) years of age who are in school or out of school.
- All adolescent girls should be screened for anaemia before supplementation.
- Anaemic adolescent girls should be treated before IFA supplementation
- In school adolescent girls will be given IFA tablets every Wednesday on weekly basis
- Out of school adolescent girls will be given IFA tablets supplied monthly and to be taken once weekly after a meal
- Out of school girls will take their first dose under the observation of a health worker
- IFA tablets are free

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

| ACTIVITY | DATE | NUMBER REACHED | MEANS OF COMMUNICATION |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Debriefing and sensitization of key stakeholders | 01/04/2019-05/04/2019 | 45 | Verbal |
| Sensitization at OPDs | 22/04/2019-09/05/2019 | 800 | Health Education |
| Sensitization at outreach points | 22/04/2019-09/05/2019 | 257 | Health Education |
| Writing of letters to all health facilities in | 10/04/2019 | 37 health facilities | Written |

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|--|------------|------------------------------|---|
| the district | | | |
| Writing of letters to all churches and mosques in the district | 12/04/2019 | 300 churches in the district | Written |
| Writing of letters to all schools in the district | 08/05/19 | 92 schools in the district | Written |
| Sensitization at Community information centres(CIC) | 22/04/2019 | 15 CICs | Verbal |
| Sensitization at Hope fm | 26/04/2019 | 134,922 | Verbal |
| Sensitization at S.H.S | 08/05/2019 | 350 students | Health Education Distribution of GIFTS In school leaflets Pasting of GIFTS posters in schools |

QUESTIONS ASKED

- What is the purpose or rationale for the GIFTS program
- Is the IFA tablets for sale?
- Is it free for all women in their reproductive age?
- What is the target age group for the supplementation
- Why were boys not included in the supplementation
- Are there any side effects

LESSONS LEARNT

The team members were able to address certain misconceptions about iron and folate intake. Example Malt and tomatoes consumption boosting iron level in the body.

PICTURES FROM ACTIVITIES





Pictures from Hope FM



Pictures from OPD Health Education Section





Pictures from S.H.S GIFTS Sensitization



Pasting of Posters at S.H.S