



Community Partner, Ransford Yamson

AT A GLANCE

The Bridging Gaps: Innovate for Malaria (B4M) project builds the capacities of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and communities on their health rights and responsibilities; increases community knowledge on the national malaria service package; generates evidence of health facilities' adherence to national guidelines for malaria control and prevention; undertakes participatory monitoring of community perspectives and experiences with malaria control and prevention mechanisms and eventually advocates at the national and sub-national levels for improved malaria control and prevention services.

The project is being implemented in Bodi, Juaboso, Mpohor and Nzema East districts in the Western and Western North Regions of Ghana.

MALARIA PREVENTION AND CONTROL CHAMPION
Ransford Yamson is a community partner who works with United Civil Society Organizations for National Development (UCSOND), a community-based organization in Nzema East Municipality in the Western Region. He is a leader and advisor to many, especially pregnant women, mothers with children under five (5) years and young people in the communities that he serves.

Every week, Ransford visits these communities in the Nzema East Municipality to educate individuals and families on their health rights and responsibilities; signs and symptoms of malaria; and overall malaria management. As a community health advocate, he dispels individual and community misconceptions about the causes and treatment of malaria such as the sun, dirty surroundings and oil causing malaria. He influences community members' health seeking behaviours by encouraging them to access services at health facilities in a timely manner.

He believes the B4M project has empowered community members to take ownership of their health and not be passive when they are dissatisfied with health services offered to them.

He asserts that the frequent community health education:

“...has led to a sharp change in behaviour in the life of people. So now people are conversant with malaria messages and then their rights and responsibilities when they visit health facilities”

Ransford's charisma and devotion to community education as well as his willingness to support the overall aim of the B4M project which is to prevent and control malaria makes him a Malaria Prevention and Control Champion.