

Project / Innovation

Nominee name: Mr. Ralph-Martin Apasesom Atiah

Position: In-charge, Pope Francis Clinic, Komfourkrom

I am Ralph Martin Apasesom Atiah, a committed registered nurse practitioner and the current officer-in-charge of the Komfourkrom CHPS facility now called Pope Francis Clinic, Komfourkrom. For over eight years, I have dedicated myself to transforming a previously neglected and underserved rural community into a thriving health service environment.

When I accepted posting to Komfourkrom in 2016, the area had no electricity, no mobile network coverage, and a reputation that discouraged health professionals from working there. No staff had previously accepted posting to the area due to its harsh conditions. I became the first registered nurse to accept the challenge, and through hard work and collaboration, we have achieved the following notable milestones:

1. **Motivated staffing:** I successfully encouraged more nurses and midwives to accept postings to the facility. What started as a one-man station has grown into a team of eighteen (18) dedicated staff members, including a resident midwife. This expanded workforce has significantly improved access to healthcare and service coverage in the area.
2. **Community mobilization:** Together with the community, I led efforts to fill the waterlogged compound of the facility with gravel. This grassroots solution drastically improved accessibility and sanitation, especially during the rainy season.
3. **Infrastructure through IGF:** With internally generated funds (IGF), I spearheaded the construction of a Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) unit. This has been critical in addressing maternal and child health needs within the community.
4. **Ongoing laboratory project:** I initiated a community-supported project to complete a laboratory for the clinic, which will soon enhance our diagnostic and testing capabilities—services that were previously unavailable in the area.
5. **Water provision:** Recognizing the importance of clean water, I led efforts to secure a regular and reliable water supply for the clinic, solving a long-standing barrier to effective healthcare delivery.
6. **Midwife recruitment and maternal health:** Through persistent advocacy and leadership, I facilitated the posting of a midwife to the facility. Her presence has significantly reduced home deliveries and maternal deaths within our catchment area.
7. **Pioneering role:** My pioneering decision to accept posting to Komfourkrom—despite its lack of basic amenities—helped dismantle the stigma surrounding service in hard-to-reach areas. My example has since inspired confidence among other health professionals and within the community.

I believe my story reflects the spirit of innovation, service, and resilience needed to advance healthcare delivery in Ghana's rural settings. Through strategic use of limited resources, strong community integration, and a clear vision for sustainable health improvements, we have made

measurable progress in both infrastructure and health outcomes. I remain committed to championing frontline rural nursing and ensuring that no community is left behind.