



Collaboration puts meningitis on the national agenda

Concern Health Education Project (CHEP), Ghana, partnered with the Ministry of Health for a national-level commemoration of World Meningitis Day 2024 and launched an expert committee on meningitis. They also recruited vaccine champions and reached millions through radio. These activities were all part of their *Meningitis Today* project, funded by the CoMO World Meningitis Day 2024 Advocacy Fund pilot.

Organisation

Concern Health Education Project (CHEP)

Background

Civil society organisation focusing on health advocacy

Location

Ghana

The expert committee concept

CHEP had begun to develop the concept of the expert committee on meningitis in early 2024. They saw that to help Ghana reach the objectives of the World Health Organization's [Global Road Map to Defeat Meningitis by 2030](#), all stakeholders would need to be involved nationally.

The committee will bring together representatives from: civil society organisations, academia, people with lived experience of meningitis, faith and women's groups, and the Ministry of Health, among others. It will provide advice to public health decision-makers, advocate for improved prevention, and monitor the implementation of the Road Map in Ghana.

Using radio to build momentum

CHEP obtained two radio features in September 2024, including an interview with CEO Isaac Ampomah on the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, one of Ghana's most popular radio stations. Isaac explained the causes of meningitis, promoted World Meningitis Day and previewed the launch of the expert

committee. The radio stations on which CHEP featured have a combined reach of 10 million people.

Partnership with the Ministry

The *Meningitis Today* project was the first time CHEP had fully partnered with the Ministry of Health at the national level. It was also the first time the Ministry had shown clear public support for marking World Meningitis Day. Isaac believes that the strength of the expert committee concept helped bring the Ministry on board.

The main event

CHEP's activities built towards a press-conference-style event in Accra to mark World Meningitis Day. It was attended by over 100 people, including civil servants, members of the press and other civil society organisations.

Highlights included the official announcement of the expert committee and the Ministry's commitment to working towards the Road Map's goals.

A visually impaired survivor and committee member, Adelaide Adjei, provided a powerful moment by sharing her experience of the disease.

Training vaccine champions

In parallel, throughout September, CHEP ran seven training sessions at health centres. Staff spoke to over 200 mothers and pregnant women about the benefits of vaccination, and gave them flyers adapted from the CoMO World Meningitis Day toolkit. The goal was to create vaccine champions who would pass on information to their peers. CHEP will work closely with a cross-section of the women to review the effectiveness of this approach.

Next steps

CHEP is now seeking additional funding to allow it to work with the Ministry to fill all the roles on the expert committee. There is still work to do before it is fully operational, but the CoMO-funded *Meningitis Today* project has set this process in motion.



Further resources

-  [CHEP website](#)
-  [CHEP Facebook page](#)

Contacts

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The World Meningitis Day Advocacy Fund provided CHEP the confidence needed to engage policy at the national level and to work with the Ministry on a win-win approach. It also enabled us to reach many more people with our key messages.

Isaac Ampomah, CHEP CEO

