



Decentralized Health Care in Ghana

Dramatic storm clouds and axle-deep mud offer some insight into the challenges facing the Ministry of Health in Ghana, as it works toward decentralized, community-based health care. The PRIME project is participating in a number of efforts focused on decentralization in Ghana, including the new Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) program.

In mid-July our Health Finance and Policy expert, Richard Killian, visited the rural Nkwanta and Hohoe districts of the Volta region to participate in the process of scaling up CHPS, contributing to development of a three-year workplan. The strategy calls for placing a community health officer in rural areas who will be able to serve the surrounding population through weekly rounds. These community health nurses will prepare for their new responsibilities through special



PRIME II



expanded training; the PRIME project will focus on clinical training and supervision, as well as alternate finance arrangements and performance issues. Our Performance Improvement process promises to be vitally important as each community assesses its situation and looks for feasible solutions to any impediments.

In the CHPS program, members of the local community contribute land, labor and some materials to build a house for the community health officer. They also help identify people willing to become community health volunteers and form community health committees to work with the officer. With exemplary support from the government, PRIME will focus on developing training programs in five districts each year, which can then be replicated nationally.



PRIME II

Suggested citation:
***Rabb, M. Decentralized
Health Care in Ghana.
7/2000. (PRIME PAGES:
Photo Essay-2)***



This publication was produced by Intrah at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the PRIME II Project and was made possible through support provided by the Center for Population, Health and Nutrition, Global Bureau, U.S. Agency for International Development, under the terms of Grant Number HRN-A-00-99-00022-00. The views expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development.