

Nima Namobi Mothers Club, Ghana Red Cross



Nima Namobi Mothers Club was established in about the year 2000 in a predominantly muslim area of Accra. In 2012, about 200 women were members of the group, predominantly but not exclusively muslim, and the group continued to attract more members. It was visibly and charismatically led.

The group met on a weekly basis, and had a small office. It carried out literacy activities, and simple first aid training and health messaging – for example around cholera and yellow fever, hygiene training (and hand washing). It sometimes linked with the nearby youth unit to undertake these activities. Some women undertook tasks such as clearing the drainage channels that run through the area – a very unpleasant task.

The group was well established as the only sustained volunteer group in the community. For this reason international NGOs and government approached it when they were looking for community involvement in their activities. They recognised the value of the sustainable local network, and worked through it. For example, the chapter worked with an NGO to establish a water tower to supply the community with water when companies halted supplies. With an Italian NGO the chapter worked to promote awareness of the benefits of gas cooking stoves, which it also sold to generate revenues. If there was an outbreak of disease, Ghana Health Service worked with the group to mobilise and inform local people of preventative actions.

The Mothers Club was a strong and well-respected mechanism for disseminating simple messages through the community. What members felt would help the group would be more training, to raise the knowledge of members, and support for income generating activities to alleviate member poverty.

The group's leadership spoke very positively of their support from the regional branch of Ghana Red Cross, and members were clearly proud of belonging to the Red Cross.

Taken from:

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<https://reliefweb.int/report/ghana/global-organizational-development-pilot-project-building-sustainable-local-capacity>