



# Dzemeni Community Health Empowerment Initiative

## The Challenge

Acute respiratory infections remain a leading cause of under-five mortality worldwide. In rural Ghana, preventable exposure to biomass cooking smoke, poor water and sanitation, and limited healthcare access significantly increase the risk of severe respiratory illness among young children.

## Our Response



### Our Vision

Children and families flourish when empowered youth support behavior change and remain engaged through pathways to skills, entrepreneurship, and employment.



### Our Mission

The Dzemeni Community Health Empowerment Initiative equips rural youth to become community service leaders and agents of change. Through practical skills training, leadership development, and service-based learning, young people promote the adoption of evidence-based behaviors that improve health and safety at the household level. Our Youth Service and Development Corps pairs capacity building with community service, creating pathways to entrepreneurship, employment, and lifelong leadership.

## Our Program Model

The Dzemeni Community Empowerment Initiative is implemented through the Youth Service and Development Corps—a first-of-its-kind service corps model that integrates youth leadership, household health promotion, and vocational pathways into a single, scalable delivery system.



### We LEAD

**Forming the identity of the Corps through discipline, values, responsibility, and civic pride.**

Youth build the confidence and character needed to lead behavior change in their communities, emerging as role models, household educators, peer mentors, and community advocates.



### We ACT

**Forming the operational engine of the Corps through service, skills, and community action.**

Youth promote behavior change and build supportive household infrastructure through home visits, health education, and practical service. This pillar turns training into action.



### We THRIVE

**Forming the long-term resilience of the Corps and the communities it serves.**

Youth build pathways to employment, enterprise, and cooperative business as communities sustain measurable improvements in health, safety, and well-being. This pillar transforms the Corps into a workforce and enterprise pipeline that sustains gains in household health, safety, and well-being over time.

## Learn more:

### Partner With Us

Partner with the Youth Service and Development Corps to strengthen youth leadership, improve household health and safety, and sustain measurable community impact.

Implemented by:



Directed by:



Supported by:



Gangarosa International  
Health Foundation



We LEAD - We ACT - We THRIVE

### Global Impact of Acute Respiratory Infection



**~15%**  
of under-five deaths  
worldwide

### Local Challenges



Biomass Fuels  
and Smoke



Poor quality water  
and sanitation



Limited  
Healthcare Access