



## Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Global Promise Fund in Ghana

The goal of the **Susan G. Komen Global Initiative for Breast Cancer Awareness** is to create a dynamic global network of dedicated activists with the skills, knowledge and vision to play a strategic role in shaping their country's response to breast cancer. The initiative is funded by Susan G. Komen for the Cure, managed by the Institute of International Education (IIE) West Coast Center, and implemented in collaboration with local partners in nine countries: Romania, Ukraine, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and **Ghana**.

The Susan G. Komen for the Cure Global Promise Fund is an unprecedented global expansion campaign that creates sustainable breast cancer outreach and education programs around the globe. The countries with the greatest needs and highest potential for change were selected based on data from the World Health Organization and information from Komen's grants in more than 50 countries.

Breast cancer is the leading malignancy in Ghana, where mortality percentage is a staggering 70 percent. The high mortality rate reflects, among other things, a pattern of late diagnosis among patients. In a 2007 study, at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, over half of participants first reported to the hospital in advanced stages of the disease. On average, Ghanaian women report for diagnosis eight months or more after first noticing a change in their breasts. The post-treatment survival rate is very low due to the low level of awareness, late detection and high cost of treatment. Indeed breast cancer has claimed some of Ghana's most illustrious women.

### Breast Cancer in Ghana

- Incidence: 28.1/100,000
- Mortality: 19.8/100,000
- Mortality/Incidence: 70%

*Globocan 2002. Rates expressed are ASR(W)*

Komen is reaching out to those underserved people in areas where breast cancer death rates are highest. Susan G. Komen for the Cure awarded a grant to Komfo Anakye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi, Ghana. The purpose of the project is to increase breast health awareness and access to detection and treatment of breast cancer; recruit and fund medical staff; provide services to breast cancer survivors and their families; recruit and train lay ambassadors to promote breast cancer awareness and treatment messages in underserved areas throughout Ghana.

Susan G. Komen for the Cure is committed to strengthening people's ability to rid the world of breast cancer - together we can unite each person, nation, ethnicity and race, and fight this fight together.

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