**The experiment to stimulate voluntary enrolment through expansion of registration units and intensifying education of members at the district office**

**Background**: The findings from both the qualitative and quantitative studies informed development and evaluation of a two component intervention for increasing voluntary enrolment. The two components of the intervention were Registration Unit Expansion and NHIS Information and Education. The ultimate objective of the two interventions was to increase enrolment among residents in the intervention districts through:

1. Increased knowledge about the NHIS, its enrolment processes and the benefits package through education and communication.
2. Encouragement of ‘group registration’ and discouraging individual registration.
3. Taking registration closer to the people

**Study Objectives**: The objective of the study was to evaluate the impact of the interventions on voluntary enrolment in the NHIS.

**Methods**: The study design was a quasi-experimental pre-test post-test control group design. Two districts were randomly selected out of the 17 districts in the Volta Region to pilot each of the interventions respectively and one district was selected as a control for comparison. Kadjebi district implemented the Registration Unit Expansion intervention while Ketu North district implemented the NHIS Information and Education intervention. North Tongu was selected as the control district.In each of the three districts, before and after routine enrolment data was collected and analyzed for comparison. The interventions were run concurrently for 9 months (25th October 2016-31st July 2017) after which enrolment numbers from the three districts were analysed. Administrative data (routine enrolment data) during the intervention period was compared enrolment data 9 months pre intervention (25th October 2015- 31st July 2016).

**Key Findings**: Analysis revealed decreases in enrolment rates across all the three districts reflective of the national trend since 2012. The rates of decrease in the intervention districts was slower than in the control district (P< 0.001). This means that due to the interventions, Kadjebi’s enrolment rate was 7% less than North Tongu‘s while Ketu North’s enrolment rate was 5% less than that of North Tongu, implying that in the absence of the two interventions, enrolment rates in both Kadjebi and Ketu North districts would have declined at a rate similar to that of North Tongu.

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| **District** | **Before** | **After** | **Difference** |
| North Tongu | 40.1% | 28.6% | 11.4% |
| Ketu North | 35.7% | 29.4% | 6.4% |
| Kadjebi | 44.2% | 39.7% | 4.4% |

**Conclusions**: Although there was a general decrease in enrolment, the intervention “Registration Unit Expansion” performed better than the intervention on ‘NHIS Information and Education’. However it still did not bring enrolment close to the desired levels of universal. It will be important to find interventions that effectively make enrolment compulsory rather than voluntary.