Project Partners
- The Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana

Populations/communities served
- Dansoman and Accra, Ghana

Project Timeframe
- Three weeks
Building Bridges for Better Health

• **Project Goals**
  • To explore popular film representations of Ghanaian women’s lives in Africa and to examine how these gender constructions and images affect women’s mental health.

• **Expected Outcome**
  • Media images of women in popular film may lead Ghanaian women to internalize media stereotypes and judge themselves by the standards of femininity imposed by these images which may result in poor mental health and a negative self image.
Progress to date

Interviews with women in Ghana and Ghanaian female college students in the United States suggest Ghanaian popular film is viewed solely for entertainment and that there are no obvious or negative mental health effects.

Next steps

The prevalence of violence against Ghanaian women in popular film, its effects on women’s mental health and overall well being warrants additional consideration in light of the persistent use of forceful language, intimidation and physical abuse against female characters.