• **Project Partners**
  – Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University
  – National Buruli Ulcer Control Program, Ghana Health Service
  – World Health Organization

• **Populations/Communities Served**
  – Underserved Rural and Urban Communities in the Ashante and Central Regions of Ghana

• **Timeframe**
  – May 31 to August 1, 2008 in Ghana with ongoing work in Atlanta
**Project Goals**
- Determine the status of Buruli ulcer laboratory confirmation in Ghana.
- Determine methods used for Buruli ulcer laboratory confirmation in Ghana.
- Determine how the Buruli ulcer samples are being collected and transported.
- Determine the Buruli ulcer laboratory confirmation is a part of the Buruli ulcer surveillance system.

**Expected Outcomes**
- Evaluate and describe the current status of Buruli ulcer laboratory confirmation, which includes sample collection, data management, and laboratory tests
- Develop recommendations for improving early Buruli ulcer case detection
• Progress to date
  – Field experience completed August 1, 2008
  – Preliminary recommendation report completed
  – Identified dataset for thesis

• Next steps
  – Finalize the recommendation report for Buruli ulcer surveillance system
  – PowerPoint presentation for Global Field Experience
  – Analysis of Buruli ulcer data on treatment outcome
In front of Tepa Health Department, Ghana
Project Partners

• WHO Global Buruli Ulcer Initiative
• Ghana Health Service – National Buruli Ulcer Control Program
• Rollins School of Public Health – Center for Public Health Preparedness and Research

Populations/Communities Served

• Districts in the southern sector of Ghana where Buruli ulcer is endemic.

Timeframe

• 6/1/2008-7/27/2008 in Ghana with ongoing work in Atlanta.
Project Goals

• Evaluate the Buruli ulcer surveillance system in Ghana.
• Determine the methods of data storage, data flow and data analysis within the surveillance system.
• Make recommendations for strengthening the Buruli ulcer surveillance system in Ghana.

Expected Outcomes

• Gain an understanding of the Buruli ulcer surveillance system in Ghana at the district, regional and national level ministries of health.
• Identify gaps in the current system.
• Make recommendations to improve the processes and methods used to conduct Buruli ulcer surveillance.
Progress to date

• Field experience completed 7/27/08
• Ongoing work in creating an evaluation report for the World Health Organization’s Global Buruli Ulcer Initiative

Next steps

• Submit Completed Report
Members of Ahafo Ano North District Health Management Team
• Project Partners
  - WHO Global Buruli Ulcer Initiative
  - National Buruli Ulcer Control Program, Ghana Health Service

• Populations/Communities Served
  - Evaluation conducted on behalf of Ghana Health Service
  - Data gathered at the national level, regional, district and village levels

• Timeframe
  - In Ghana: June-July 2008
  - Preparation and follow-up in Atlanta
• **Project Goals**
  - Team Goal: Describe and evaluate Ghana’s Buruli Ulcer (BU) Surveillance System
  - My Focus:
    - Describe Ghana’s Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response System
    - Evaluate extent to which surveillance for BU has been integrated with surveillance for other diseases
    - Conduct formative research on involving traditional healers in community-based surveillance system

• **Project Outcomes**
  - Make recommendations to expand and improve BU surveillance
  - Present report to WHO and Ghana Health Service
• Progress to Date
  - Data collected and analyzed
  - Report written

• Next Steps
  - Finalize report and present it to partners in Ghana
Mara Pillinger (center) and Ernestina Nyarko (left) conducting an interview with a community-based surveillance volunteer at a subdistrict health facility in Duayawnkwanta, Ghana.