

1 Main activities in the months February-April

Set-up of project management infrastructure

Already before the formal start of the project a WhatsApp had been established and regular meetings agreed on between the GrowYourDream and HITA teams (organised by Jacob Ahiave and Karsten Gareis, respectively).

An Excel spreadsheet was developed and agreed upon for continuous reporting of expenses and incomes, based on the template provided by the Schmitz Stiftungen. Forms for reporting running costs (e.g. travel expenses) and for their reimbursement were drafted.

A format for monthly reporting (= the present document) was agreed as well.

The GYDF office was equipped with a newly acquired notebook and printer needed for making print-outs, e.g. for use during the training workshops (see below).

Community Entry

The project commenced on February 1st with the **community entry activity**. Followed established protocols, the GYDF team first contacted the opinion leaders, chiefs and elders of each community and introduced the project to them. Once their support was ensured, the project was able to start interacting with the members of each community and to present to them the project, its objectives and contents. This also allowed the GYDF team to assess whether there is sufficient interest among community members (fathers, mothers, adolescents) to actively participate in the project, i.e. to take part in the monthly Club meetings to be chaired by the GYDF team. Initial meetings also acted a platform designed to allow an open, initial stage discussion about the project, the need for activities of this kind, and the potential benefits for the community (see photos below).





Set-up of Daddy's and Mothers Clubs

Each of the ten communities approached by the GYDF warmly welcomed the project and has committed to give it their maximum support to ensure its success. Fathers (Daddy's) and Mothers Clubs have already been established, and a Club Leader designated for each of them.

The issue of Adolescent Clubs will be revisited at a later stage in the project once the other Clubs are firmly established.

The ten communities participating in the project are thus confirmed: **Ahunda Kpodzi, Amuzudeve, Dawanu, Dorkpo, Dzakpo, Gavorkorfe, Golokope, Kordiabe, Kpodoave and Seva.**

In the community of **Kpodoave**, the meeting coincided with their monthly community forum which was initiated by the Assembly Member to plan community development activities. The project seized the opportunity presented by this meeting to engage the community in a discussion of the topic of gender-based violence and violence against women. The reason for choosing this topic was evidence that during the COVID-19 lockdown Ghana has witnessed an increasing number of reports of violence against women as well as some indications that the number of teenage pregnancies has increased due to school girls being confined to their home due to the lockdown provisions. As a result of the discussion, the Kpodoave community together with the Mother Support Group has formed a five-member committee to set up a Girls Guide Group to be part of the project to engage them with the purpose of addressing the problem. The Chief of Kpodoave Togbe Adjei II promised to join the Daddy's Club and contribute actively to progress being made in the club's activities.

In the community of **Dawanu**, the women who volunteered to become part of the Mothers Club were eager to start with activities already. For this reason, they were presented with some exercises (women box activity) under the supervision of Mr. Agama Johnson, the GYDF team member assigned to the community. The number of women who attended this meeting exceeded the expected number, showing that it might be possible to achieve a wide coverage of the female population in this community.

Total number of people who participated in our introductory meetings in the ten selected communities has been **654 (303 women and 351 men)**.

Preparation of first training sessions

The next step in the project are two “train the trainer” workshops to be organised in early May (3rd – 4th). Preparation of the workshop has included:

- Agreement on and preparation of content of the training sessions, based on prior experience of the GYDF team;
- Communication of the invitation to all Club Leaders, including provisions concerning reimbursement of costs;
- Organisation of the training venue (based on the assessment of various offers received) and catering;
- Commissioning of the printing of project t-shirts for distribution among workshop participants;
- Preparation of hand-outs, posters and other materials.

Dissemination

A report on the start of the project and its background was published on the GYDF website on March 1st, see <http://growyourdreamghana.org/grow-your-dream-foundation-kick-starts-project-on-gender-equality-women-empowerment-health-in-10-communities-across-adaklu>.

2 Diversions from the workplan

A delay in some project activities was caused by later-than-planned availability of a bank account on the part of GYDF, the process for which took many weeks due to a number of formal documents required from NGOs applying for an account as a newly established NGO. For this reason, it was not possible to transfer the first part of the grant before mid-April. As a result, training of Club Leaders was slightly delayed (from April to early May), see table below.

Workplan

Activities	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
I. Set up of project management infrastructure											
II. Community entry, engagement of target groups, set-up of additional Clubs											
III. Preparation of digital content and social media channels											
IV. Training of Club Leaders											
V. Digitally supported operation of Fathers, Mothers, Adolescents Clubs											
VI. Impact analysis, reporting											
VII. Dissemination											

A **change of the overall workplan** (for the remaining part of the project) is not required, as the first steps in the project (community entry and set-up of Clubs) did not depend on the availability of the grant and therefore could start on February 1st as planned.