

# 1 Main activities in the month May

## *First training sessions*

Two training workshops were conducted in early May: A Workshop with the Leaders of the Daddys Clubs (May 3<sup>rd</sup>) and a workshop with the Leaders of the Mothers Clubs (May 4<sup>th</sup>). The workshops took place at a central training location in Ho, the capital of the Volta Region. The location was chosen because it can be reached comparatively easy from any part of Adaklu. Each attendees received a training manual, refreshments, and reimbursement of travel costs. They were also provided with a t-shirt bearing the project tagline and logos, to allow them to signal their role in the project to fellow people in their home community.

The workshops were designed in the form of “train the trainer” activities with the objective to make group leaders understand their role as key facilitators of a community-wide process through which to discuss gender roles and stereotypes, stronger male engagement in the family and the need for female empowerment.

The workshop with the appointed leaders of the 10 new Daddy’s clubs aimed to discuss, in particular, the potential of male engagement in maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) and sexual and reproductive health (SRH). It took place on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Male engagement here means men taking an active role in protecting and promoting the health and wellbeing of their partners and children, which requires a substantial and lasting behavioural shift towards more gender-equitable relationships between male and female partners. The training also included discussion of masculinities, i.e. the set of attributes, behaviours, and roles commonly associated with men and boys, and how they keep men (and women) from enjoying more fulfilling and equitable partnerships.

### **Training of Mother Support Group and Daddies Club Leaders (3-4 May, 2021)**



The workshop with the leaders of the 10 new Women Support Groups (also called Women Clubs) dealt with the methods to be used for empowering women and girls to be become more productive members of their community and to make their own decisions e.g. in matters of health provision for themselves and their children. The training also focused on addressing gender biases that are still commonplace in Ghana as a

result of cultural and social traditions that have relegated women and girls to the background and also allowed the persistence of violence against women and girls. The session took place on May 4th.

Both sessions were organised as a mix of presentations, exercises, group interaction and lively debate. The exercises, each of which designed, tried and tested by the GYDF team, included “Value Clarification”, the “Hours-in-a-day” discussion, a roleplay called “Persons and Things”, the “African Woman tool” and the “Women box”.

Finally, participants were informed about the next steps to be taken in the project. Group leader are supposed to involve their local group in a discussion based on what they have learned during the training session. They will be supported in this task by the GYDF team through monthly, scheduled visits by the field officer in charge, during which new exercises will be conducted and input for the discussion provided; by meetings of the GYDF team with chiefs and local opinion leaders in each participating community, who in their role as gatekeepers are also key stakeholders of the project; and through digital communication channels, namely Whatsapp Groups set up for the purpose of connecting group leaders with each other and for sharing content (infographics, video clips, short guidelines) that will help members in their work. A second round of workshops is scheduled for later in 2021.

Attendees showed a lot of commitment and participated in the workshops with much enthusiasm. They voiced satisfaction with the content of the training and now look forward to start their their new role as group leaders once back in their community.

### ***Monthly meetings of Daddy’s and Mothers Clubs***

During the reporting period, GYDF staff visited each of the 10 project communities and engaged with the 20 groups set up (see table below). Group activities as designed were carried out according to plan, with a particular focus on tackling gender inequality resulting from cultural traditions.

<b>Community</b>	<b>Date</b>
Ahunda Kpodzi	11/05/2021
Amuzudeve	30/05/2021
Dawanu	05/05/2021
Dorkpo	04/05/2021
Dzakpo	15/05/2021
Gavorkorfe	23/05/2021
Golokope	21/05/2021
Kordiabe	10/05/2021
Kpodoave	08/05/2021
Seva	18/05/2021

Support was obtained from Ghana Health Service staffs, who were used for educating male and female community members on key health issues related to MNCH and adolescent reproductive health. Through cooperation with community health nurses, who are well known and respected by community members, the project’s gender transformative approach was reinforced.

During the period the GYDF team also engaged with some community leaders (Togbes and other elders) on gender equality, male involvement in MNCH, and adolescent reproductive health. These meetings were a deliberate approach for involving the opinions and suggestions of village elders as part of a broader consultation for creating awareness of the effects of gender inequality on maternal and child health.

Community dубars (congregations of all community members) were held in all the ten (10) project communities. This activity is very important because it creates a platform for all community member – both group members and nonmembers – to debate issues, share ideas and learn together with the traditional leaders.

To mention a few examples, in **Golokope** there turn up for the community dубar was great and new ideas concerning women empowerment were discussed, facilitated by GYDF Director Jacob Ahiave. For coverage of health related topics such as family planning, a community health nurse (Ms. Peace Avornyо) was asked to participate and facilitate the discussion (the same nurse also attended group meetings in other projects communities), see photo below. Role play was used to demonstrate the benefits to be derived from male engagement during pregnancy, delivery and postnatal care. The chief of Golokope, Togbe Bese, publically asked all men to support their spouse so as to jointly create a better future for their children.

**Daddies club meeting in Golokope, supported by a community health nurse (21/05/2021)**



In **Dawanu** the Daddies Club and the Mother Support Group were combined for a range of activities which are based on an open exchange between men and women. The topics were: gender based violence (GBV); male support during pregnancy; and power sharing between men and their spouses. It was a great scene sharing ideas and debating on issues related to both genders. Again, role play was used to help both men and women engage with some of the topics. The picture below shows Dawanu women in a role play of self-empowerment.

**Role play at combined women and men group meeting in Dawanu (05/05/2021)**





In **Amuzudeve** group leaders of both the Women Support Group and Daddies Club made heavy use of the manuals they received at the training sessions for facilitating their activities, see photos below.

**Women Support Group and Daddies Club meetings in Amuzudeve (30/05/2021)**



In total more than 520 people (~320 women and ~200 men) were reached in all project activities during the reporting period.

**Dissemination**

A report on the first training sessions of the project was published on the GYDF website on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, see <http://growyourdreamghana.org/a-great-success-first-training-sessions-with-appointed-leaders-of-20-new-daddys-clubs-and-mother-support-groups>.

**2 Diversions from the workplan**

For reasons described in the previous activity report, the training sessions for Club Leaders were slightly delayed (from April to early May), see table below. 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 1<sup>st</sup> as planned.

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											

There were only minor problems during the reporting period. The ability of the GYDF member to attend the community meetings in **Dzakpowas** were hampered by heavy rains that caused a river close to the

community to burst its banks, making it next to impossible to enter into the community. The group meetings took place nevertheless, chaired by the respective group leaders, who afterwards reported back to the GYDF team.

**The road at Dzakpo after heavy rainfalls, making it impossible to reach the community (15/05/2021)**

