



## **PARTICIPATORY ACTION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES**

P O BOX RG 692 BOIGATANGA UFR GHANA REGIONAL MOFA

### **FINAL REPORT PROJECT: PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE UPPER EAST REGION. MAY TO NOVEMBER 2020 PROJECT NUMBER: GO3574**



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With funding support from:



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Executive Director of PARDA**

## **INTRODUCTION**

As part of its support from OSIWA on improved health delivery in Ghana, PARDA also entered an additional contractual agreement with OSIWA to support in the fight against COVID-19 in the Upper East Region of Ghana. This was add-on to the existing contractual agreement. The add-on seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. Increase sensitization on COVID-19 in 20 communities and
2. Increase logistical support for 20 health facilities and 20 communities in the Upper East Region of Ghana.

This report covers progress made between, May 2020 to August 2020 of activities implemented on the COVID-19 support intervention focusing on; Outputs and Outcomes.

### **1.1 OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES**

#### **1.1.1 Outputs**

PARDA's intervention in the COVID-19 pandemic became a necessity following the nation-wide outbreak of the disease in Ghana. PARDA decided to start a mass education strategically in partnership with the Ghana Health Service to avert any catastrophic occurrences of the disease in the Upper East Region. Below are the outputs under these interventions.

**OBJECTIVE ONE: Increase community sensitization on COVID-19 in 20 communities in the upper east region of Ghana.**

**Activity 1: Support Community leaders' on COVID-19 education in various local dialects and English language.**

Five leaders in every community (total of 60 participants) were trained/sensitized by health experts including nurses at the community facilities. The community leaders were chosen from Bolgatanga Municipal (Anateem, Yorogo-Kunkua), Bawku Municipality (Baribari, Asigiri), Navrongo Municipal (Punyoro, Pindaa), Talensi District (Kpatia, Gbane) and Nabdram Distict (Nyogbare, Gane Songe). These community leaders were trained on basic prevention methods and stigmatization issues connected to Covid-19. A total of 60 individuals attended comprising 31 males and 29 females. Objectives of the training were to enhance community leaders' capacity in improving community awareness, prevention and sensitization on Covid-19 best practices, and cascade public health information on Covid-19 practices to the grassroots in target communities.



**Fig 3 Training of community leaders at Anateem (left), and Asikiri (right)**

**Activity 2: Support COCs and Volunteers to conduct Door-to-door education, using hand held public address system.**

Sixty (60) Community Oversight Committees (COCs) and Volunteers were trained and equipped to support in the education and sensitisation of the community members on COVID-19. The training was on the various protocols on COVID-19, and how to adhere to these protocols at the community levels.

Also, to facilitate the work of these Volunteers and COCs, 30 hand held Public address systems (Megaphones) were donated to the CHPS at the communities to enable the COCs and Volunteers conduct door-to-door education at the community level.

**Activity 3: Conduct mass education through Radio.**

To ensure that the masses were properly sensitised, there was need for radio education. This was done using Jingles at some selected radio stations in the region. The jingles were in four (4) different languages (Garune, Kasem, Kusaal and English) and were aired in the selected FM stations in Bolga, Bawku and Navrongo. The import of these jingles was to convey information on how the disease is contracted, its spread, treatment and prevention, and stigmatisation of people infected with the disease and how to report a suspected case to the health centers or staff. Radio discussions were also carried out in same radio stations with the intention of reaching a larger listening audience within the catchment areas of such FM stations. These FM stations have a potential listenership of 1,5000.

**Activity 5: Construction of murals at vantage points at the communities.**

Murals containing messages in picture form were also designed, printed and posted at vantage points in the 20 communities. Some of the places included Chief palaces, Schools facilities, Market squares. These educational messages focused on hand washing, Social distancing, and self-protection which are key in the prevention of COVID-19. Below are samples of the murals posted.



*Fig 4. community members observing proper hand washing on a mural posted at their community.*

### **Activity 6: Develop simple flyers for demonstrations on how to recognise signs and symptoms and preventive methods of COVID-19.**

The various protocols on COVID-19 were compiled by a consultant and design into flyers. These flyers contained information on the various protocols such as hand washing, social distance, and other prevention measures. A total of 400 copies were printed and distributed to the 20 targeted communities.

## **OBJECTIVE TWO: INCREASE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR 20 HEALTH FACILITIES AND 20 COMMUNITIES.**

### **Activity 1: Provide 40 pieces Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for 20 health facilities.**

A total of 40 personal protection equipment (PPE) were donated to 20 health facilities. The PPE were made up face masks, disposable gloves, facial shields and overalls. The items were distributed among 20 health facilities and in the 20 communities. These items were to be used by staff of Ghana health service at the community level who are front line workers in the fight against the COVID-19.

### **Activity 2: Provide 40 pieces of hand-held temperature guns to 20 health facilities.**

A total of 40 pieces of hand-held temperature guns were procured through the support and donated to 20 health facilities and 20 communities. These guns are to be use by the health workers and community health volunteers, during their community surveillance for COVID-19.

**Activity 3: Provide Hand washing facilities (30 veronica buckets) for 20 health facilities and 20 communities.**

Veronica buckets totaling 30 were also procured and donated to the 20 beneficiary health facilities and 20 communities. These were to serve as hand washing facility, due to the importance of hand washing under running water in fighting the COVID19 pandemic. Each of the 20 health facilities, received one veronica bucket and its stands. Some chiefs were also provided with a veronica bucket to be placed at their various palace to cater for the large number of community members that patronize visit the palace on daily bases.

**Activity 4: Provide 400 pieces of Hand sanitizers to 20 health facilities and 20 communities**

400 pieces of hand sanitizers were also donated to the beneficiary health facilities and communities. Each health facility received 20 pieces each of the hand sanitizers. These were meant for the health workers and the community health volunteers who lead in the community sanitization on COVID-19.

**Activity 5: Support COCs and volunteers with 40 PPE to conduct door-to-door education at the community level.**

Forty (40) personal protection equipment (PPE) were also donated to the community health volunteers. These were face masks, disposable gloves, facial shields and overalls. The items were distributed among the community health volunteers as since they are also front line workers in the fight against the COVID-19.

**Activity 6: Support 20 health facilities and communities with 60 boxes of liquid soap.**

A total of 60 boxes of liquid soap was also donated to the 20 health facilities to help facilitate the hand washing protocol by the community members and general public.

**Activity 7: Handing over of logistics to communities**

A handing over ceremony was held to present the logistics/item procured to Ghana health service and the communities. The ceremony was attended by Regional health Director, eight health Directors of the beneficiary Districts, sub-district heads, chiefs of the beneficiary communities, and the media. The items donated included Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), temperature Guns, Veronica buckets, hand sanitizers, liquid soap and public address system. The beneficiary communities were Namoaligo, Gbani, Kaptia and Gorogo in the Talensi District, Gane Songe , Kotintabig and Nyobagre in the Nabdam District, Sepeliga, Tarikom, Kopela and Tanga in the Bawku West District, Zuarungu in the Bolgatanga East, Sumbrungu, Anateem, and Kunkua in the Bolgatanga Municipality, Baribari and Asikri in the Bawku Municipality as well as Gia, Pindaa, Punyoro and Naaga in the Kasena Nakana Municipality. Below are the links of the media publication on the handing over ceremony.



*Fig. 5: Director of PARDA presenting items to GHS Through the Deputy Director*



*Fig 6: Regional Health Directorate handing over items to Beneficiary Districts through the Bawku Director*



*Fig 7: The Bawku Health Director handing over to a representative of the beneficiary communities*

### 1.1.2 OUTCOMES

The implementation of the COVID-19 project through the conduct of the various outputs has produced a number of outcomes, which are contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the project.

1. **The confidence level of workers and community health volunteers, in handling surveillances, for COVID-19 have been boosted.** This is due to the logistical support given to the health facilities, and communities by the intervention. For example Madam Marry, a midwife at the **Zuarungu** health center a beneficiary health center, stated that the PPEs donated was timely since they were facing challenges with logistics, she noted that “We were force to use rubber hand gloves which was putting us at risk, and always making us feel uncomfortable in handling cases, but now with these donations we feel relieved for the mean time and we thank PARDA and OSIWA for this timely support”.
2. **There is an improvement in the knowledge of communities and community leaders on COVID-19:** This is due to the training of community leaders and Community Health volunteers on COVID-19, and the subsequent sensitization of communities by the leaders and Volunteers. Also, the use of radio mass education using jingles on COVID-19 has also created awareness on the pandemic in the Upper Region. These efforts by PARDA – OSIWA, and other partners have supported in ensuring that there is no case recorded in any of the targeted communities.



***Fig. 10: COC member of Kunkua conducting community sensitisation on COVID-19 using Hand held Mega phone donated under CHAP.***



***Fig. 11: A community health officer at Gbani conducting community sensitisation on COVID-19 using Hand held Mega phone donated under CHAP.***

3. Improvement of the hand washing situation at the community health facilities due to the donation of the washing facilities (veronica buckets).



*Fig.12: Utilisation of veronica buckets donated by community members at Zuarungu Health center*

*MEDIA LINKS ON COVID-19 DONATION*

<https://www.gna.org.gh/1.18326024>

<https://starrfm.com.gh/2020/05/parda-donates-logistics-plans-to-introduce-anti-covid-19-educators/>

<http://www.faapa.info/blog/parda-supports-six-districts-in-uer-to-fight-covid-19/>

Appendix 1: Outputs and Outcomes Tracker

**PARDA OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES TRACKER**

	Implemented Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
<b>OBJECTIVE ONE: Increase community sensitization on COVID-19 in 20 communities in the upper east region of Ghana</b>			
1.1.0	Support Community leaders' on COVID-19 education in various local dialects and English language		
1.1	Conduct Training for 60 community leaders on COVID-19	Training conducted for leaders	60 community leaders educated on COVID-19
2.0	Support COCs and Volunteers to conduct Door-to-door education using hand held public address system.		
2.1	Procurement of 30 hand held public address system	30 hand held public address system donated to volunteers, and COC	Volunteers conduct community sensitisation on COVID-19 using the hand held public address system.
2.2	Refreshment for Training of 60 COCs and Volunteers	Training conducted for 60 volunteers	The capacity of community health volunteers enhanced on COVID-19, for community sensitisation.
3	Conduct mass education through radio	Messages on COVID-19 developed into Jingles in four languages, and played on radio Radio education on COVID-19 conducted	Mass awareness creation on COVID-19, with a total of 15000 listeners reached.
4	Construction of murals at vantage points at the communities.	Mural design and pasted at vantage points	Awareness created on hand washing and COVID-19 protocols
5	Develop simple flyers for demonstrations on how to recognise signs and symptoms of and	400 design and printed	Flyers distributed and use for COVID-19 sensitisation

	preventive methods of Covid-19		
<b>OBJECTIVE TWO: Increase logistical support for 20 health facilities and 20 communities</b>			
1	Provide 40 pieces Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for 20 health facilities	40 PPEs donated to 20 health facilities	Health workers safety enhanced in handling COVID-19 suspected cases.
2	Provide 40 pieces of temperature guns for 20 health facilities	20 temperature guns donated to health facilities.	Reported enhance temperature screening at health facilities.
3	Provide washing facilities (30 veronica buckets) for 20 health facilities and 20 communities.	30 veronica buckets donated to 20 health facilities and 20 communities.	Access to hand washing facilities improved at the beneficiary facilities.
4	Provide 400 pieces of Hand sanitizers to 20 health facilities and 20 communities	400 hand sanitizers donated to 20 communities and health centres	The safety of communities and health workers enhanced. Health workers access to hand sanitizers improved.
5	Support COCs and volunteers with 40 PPE to conduct door to door education at the community level.	40 PPE donated to volunteers from 20 communities	Volunteers use the PPE during door-to-door education, with enhanced safety.
6	Support 20 health facilities and communities with 60 boxes of liquid soap	60 boxes of liquid soap donated.	Health centres and communities access to soap for hand washing improved.
7	Handing over of logistics to communities	Handing over ceremony conducted .	20 communities received items through appropriate channel.