



PARTICIPATORY ACTION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES

ORGANISATION CAPACITY STATEMENT

Participatory Action for Rural Development Alternatives (PARDA) is a registered NGO working in the Upper East Region of Ghana to promote maternal and child health using community-based strategies. Since its inception in 2005, PARDA has successfully mobilised, trained and encouraged citizens to take active part in local development. Among the several achievements, PARDA established female-led Community Health Committees (CHCs) to empower and promote safe motherhood and child survival through community awareness creation as well as advocacy for assistance from development partners. Through its interventions, PARDA has contributed to providing communities with access to potable water and significantly reduced the travel distance pregnant women and nursing mothers hitherto had to unfortunately cover for water. Elimination of widowhood rights in Sakote area through the community bye-laws facilitated by PARDA. Moreover, PARDA has provided labour rooms for some community health centres that lacked such facilities in selected targeted communities. In collaboration with Ghana Health Service (GHS) and OXFAM, PARDA succeeded in building the capacities of 360 Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) and Community Health Committees to provide care and support for pregnant women and nursing mothers. The trained TBAs and CHCs have thus become instrumental in maternal healthcare delivery in communities in the Upper East Region including facilitating early attendance at ANC, early detection of complications and arranging referrals of labour cases using mobile telephones.

Undoubtedly, the work of PARDA has contributed to improving the health seeking behaviour in some targeted communities; leading to increase in visits to Antenatal care (ANC) and Family Planning (FP) clinics as well as improvement in access to skilled deliveries in some districts in the Upper East Region. At least PARDA's work made a significant contribution in increasing pregnant mothers' access to skilled delivery. Between 2010 and 2014, the proportion of pregnant women with access to skilled support during childbirth increased from 54% to 74% in the Upper East Region.¹ From 2014-2016, Upper East region has consistently recorded the highest skilled delivery coverage (though there was a reduction from 2015 to 2016) and a general decrease in caesarian section rate in 2016². These significant results in the Upper East Region have been through the collective contributions and efforts of the GHS and partners, like PARDA.

More over PARDA has built a strong relationship and rapport with its partners and community members across the region since we have worked in virtually every district or municipality. Our community engagements using tools such as community durbars, Pregnancy schools, advocacy meetings, and focused group discussions have helped to bring has made PARDA a household name among community members and equipped many with lobbying skills to lead the community change process.

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On collaboration PARDA is member of coalition of NGOs in health, member of NGOs in Agriculture, and a co-convener on SDGs Upper East Region. PARDA is also a member of a stakeholder working group headed by the Upper East Regional Coordinating Council to lead in the prevention of SGBV in the Region. Key members in this working group include the Christian Council, Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU), CHRAJ, Legal Aid, Department of social welfare, Ministry of Gender, Women and Social Protection, Ghana Health Service, National Youth Authority, and Ghana Education Service. PARDA will therefore leverage on this existing relationship.

Qualification and competencies within the organization

The Board of Directors who are a mixed of rural development and research professionals. Members of the board have the required expertise in health, rural development. The management of PARDA is health by a health expert. The organization has a well-motivated staff with the require knowledge and competencies to manage programs. Staff of PARDA has undergone various capacity building in the area of Development communication, project management. About 90% of the staff have working experience of over five years.

The organization has the competences to manage any for of project have work with both internal partners like, UNICEF, OXFOM, OSIWA, ETC.

PARDA has the required policy documents that regulate the working and operation of the organization.

Below is the organizational chart of PARDA

