

FOUNDATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN AFRICA (GHANA)



ANNUAL REPORT 2012

List of Acronyms

HIV-	Human Immune Virus
GAC-	Ghana Aids Commission
NTCP-	National Tuberculosis Control Programme
NSP-	National Strategic Plan
AIDS-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Virus
OSIWA-	Open Society Initiative for West Africa
SRs-	Sub-recipients
NGO-	Non Governmental Organization
CSOs –	Civil Society Organizations
EU-	European Union
NTP-	National Tuberculosis Control Programme
MSHAP-	Multi Sectoral HIV/AIDS Programme

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1.0 Executive Summary

In the year 2012, FSDA-Ghana pursued relentlessly its goal of contributing towards improving the quality of life of the population in its targeted area. In that connection, given the social, health and economic impact of HIV/AIDS on the population, it undertook measures to create awareness about as well as building capacity in the transmission and spread of HIV/AIDS. .

Specifically, FSDA-Ghana was awarded a contract to undertake projects on HIV/AIDS for a year. It was the lead Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) for the implementation of Ghana Aids Commission project on the prevention of the transmission and spread of HIV in six districts of the Northern Volta Region. These districts were Krachie East, Nkwanta North and South, Jasikan, Kadjebi, and Hohoe Municipality. As the lead NGO, FSDA-Ghana supervised, directed and provided the strategic leadership for the six Implementing NGOs, whose activities involved capacity building, peer education and outreach campaign, counselling and testing and condom distribution. This action has reinforced CSOs/State relations that is gaining grounds and providing sustainable service to communities in the area of the fight against the pandemic.

In the year under review, FSDA also prepared a number of project proposals such as Stop TB Partnership WAVE 3 for the StopTB partnership in Geneva, Stop TB for the Ghana TB Control Programme (NTP) and a proposal for the Open Society for West Africa (OSIWA) Based in Senegal.

FSDA also deepened its cooperation with likeminded NGOs in Ghana by participating and joining Coalitions Such as the Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health, The Stop TB Ghana, among others.

On administration it maintained its staff strength and sometimes employed the services of external consultants to further its objectives.

2.0 FSDA-Ghana's 2012 Annual Report

2.1 Introduction

During the period under review, FSDA-Ghana pursued its vision and objective of positively affecting communities in its areas of operation. It has continued to contribute to the development of its constituents especially those in the northern part of the Volta Region of Ghana. It is working in six districts in the northern part of the Volta Region on its HIV Project.

FSDA won a grant from the Ghana Aids Commission (GAC) as a principal recipient to implement a project within the framework of its National Strategic Plan on HIV prevention in Ghana. GAC had earlier put out a notice requesting all NGOs that had worked with them in the implementation of the MSHAP project to present work plans for consideration. Following this announcement, FSDA Ghana presented their work plan which was approved. Contracts were subsequently signed for the work to begin.

HIV still poses a challenge to the development of Ghana. The Strategy this time is to ensure zero infections and to fight against stigmatisation. Before embarking on the full implementation of the project, FSDA-Ghana attended a number of workshops organised by the Ghana Aids Commission M&E systems and financial management of the project. These prepared the organisation to move into the field and started the implementation of the project.

Also in the year under review, FSDA prepared a number of project proposals that were presented to donor agencies in response to their call for proposals. Among these were the TB project with the national TB control programme and the Stop TB partnership in Geneva, the Open Society for West Africa (OSIWA) and the Robert Carl TB Project.

FSDA also participated in conferences and meetings organised by GAC and in the Coalition of NGOs of which it is a member.

2.2 Summary of Activities

The activities embarked upon by the FSDA – Ghana in the year 2012 were;

1. National Strategic Plan (NSP) of the Ghana AIDS Commission
 - a. Introduction
 - b. The SRs Training
 - c. The Peer educators Training
 - d. Conclusion
2. Preparation of Project Proposals
 - a. Stop TB Partnership Consortium
 - b. Stop TB
 - c. OSIWA
3. Cooperation with CSOs and NGO Coalitions
4. Administrative issues

3.0 Activities Undertaken

3.10 NSP Project

3.11 Introduction

The GAC project within the framework of NSP was entitled “Community Action against HIV&AIDS in the Volta Region”. The action which was community based was undertaken in 6 districts of the Volta Region. The target beneficiaries of the project were the youth, women and adults.

3.12 Report of Activities of the NSP Project

Project Area

The project covered six districts in the Northern Volta Region. These districts were Nkwanta South, Nkwanta North, Krachie East, Jasikan, Kadjebi and Hohoe Municipality. During the implementation of the previous MSHAP project, it was observed that in spite of the training given to the officers of the sub-recipients, they lacked the capacity to undertake HIV programs at the local level. Most CBOs/NGOs did not have adequate skills to analyse documents and communicate relevant data for effective advocacy, communication and social mobilisation at the grass root level. Furthermore, there were gaps in the financial management system. It was in the light of the above that the Foundation for Sustainable Development in Africa (FSDA-Ghana) organised a workshop on data collection tools, financial accounting systems, stock management, monitoring and evaluation in HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections programs at Hotel De Mork, Hohoe, Volta region from 5th to 9th November 2012 for staff of CBOs/NGOs.



Figure 1: Group Picture of Staff of FSDA-Ghana with the Sub-Recipient NGOs

The workshop was attended by the Regional HIV/AIDS/TB Coordinator, a representative of the MCE, the Presiding Member and HIV/AIDS Focal person all of Hohoe Municipal Assembly. In addition three representatives each of the SSRs attended the workshop. In all Twenty-Five (25) participants attended the workshop.

The implementing NGOs/CBOs were

Name of Implementing NGO	District/Municipality
Together Ghana	Hohoe
Royals Health Organisation	Krachi East
Decision on Rural Development	Nkwanta North
Tehayon Foundation	Nkwanta South
Pillar of Change for the Rights of Women & Children	Kadjebi
Global Action Against Poverty	Jasikan



Figure 2: Ms Adeline Mensah, Director of Project, Addressing the participants

Addressing the opening ceremony, a representative of FSDA, Ms Adeline Mensah, welcomed participants to the workshop and outlined its objectives. In doing so, she emphasised the importance of building consensus among all the stakeholders of the project, buying into it and thereby owning it so as to facilitate the smooth implementation of the project. It was said that they would be given the indicators from Ghana AIDS Commission to ensure that all their activities conformed to acceptable standards. Concluding, she expressed the hope that at the end of the workshop all the stakeholders would have a common understanding of the requirements of GAC as regards the implementation the National Strategic Plan 2011-2015 projects



Figure 3: A cross-section of participants taking notes during the training

The workshop was also addressed by a representative of the Municipal Chief Executive of Hohoe Municipality (MCE), Hon. Margaret Kweku. In a speech read on her behalf, she congratulated FSDA Ghana for once again winning the grant to implement HIV and AIDS activities in the Hohoe Municipality as well as in other adjoining districts. Recalling the commercial nature of Hohoe Municipality and its attendant high HIV as well as the high HIV prevalence rate of 3.0% compared to 2.2% for the region, she noted that the problematic had to be tackled from several angles in order to fulfil the goal to reduce HIV infections to Zero by the end of year 2015 .She finally charged the participants to intensify their activities to help fight and conquer if not completely eliminate the scourge of HIV. The other invited guests took turns to address the participants.



Figure 4: A Representative of the Municipal Chief Executive of Hohoe Municipality (MCE), addressing the participants

Speaking to participants during the Sub-Recipient NGOs training workshop, the Volta Regional HIV/AIDS/TB Coordinator, Mr. Joseph Degley, said HIV prevalence rate for Volta region in 2011 stood at 2.2% and about 600 pregnant women were tested HIV positive between January and December 2011. Furthermore, he stated every pregnant woman that attended antenatal clinic in the region was tested for HIV to prevent mother-to-child transmission. He stated that the non-release of 0.5% of the District Assembly Common Fund meant for HIV and AIDS to the District Assemblies constituted a serious challenge to the effort to fight the disease.

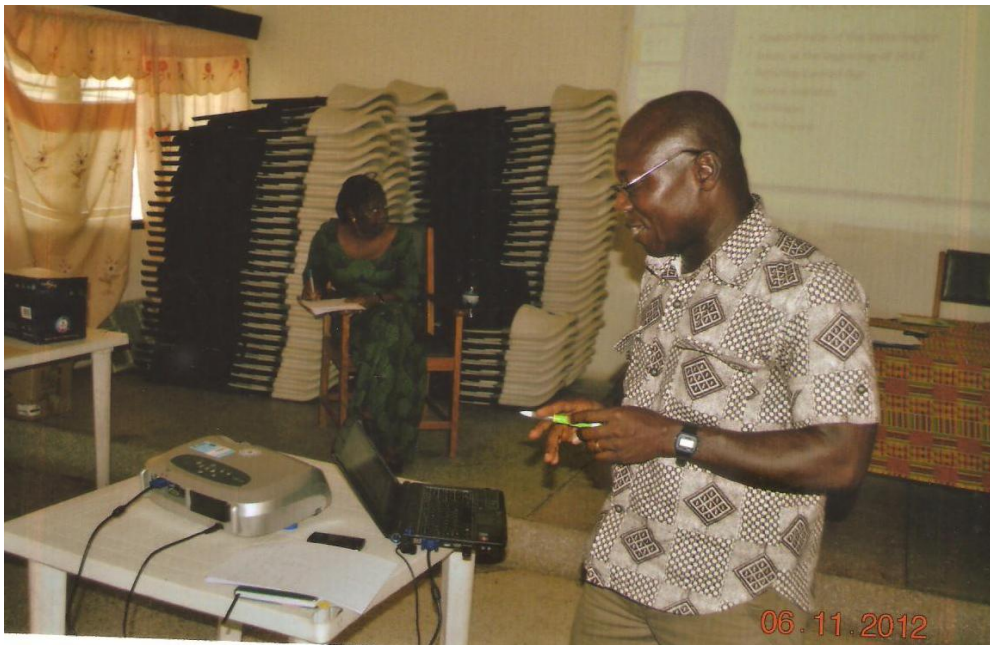


Figure 5: Mr. Degley addressing participants

3.13 Training of Peer Educators

Training of Peer Educators was undertaken by FSDA on the instruction of GAC.

The peer educators training workshop was divided into two (2) sessions because of their huge number. In all over Sixty Eight (68) participants took part in the two separate workshops. The first batch training took place from 12th to mid day of 14th November 2012, while the second batch took place from 15th to 17th November 2012. The objective of the training was among others to deepen the knowledge and sharpen the skills of the Peer Educators so as to enable them deliver appropriate messages on HIV prevention and transmission.

In that regard the training covered, among others, causes of HIV and transmission, prevention of HIV with emphasis on the principles of Abstinence, Being faithful, Use of Condom and Do not share sharp instruments (ABCD), Stigma and Discrimination, Testing and Counseling etc. The trainees were also taken through relevant data collection tools such as SCT 2, which was meant to record daily prevention activities of Peer Educators on the field. The target was to train 48 Peer Educators but over 60 were trained. A certificate of participation would be awarded to the trainees to motivate them for quality field work. It was suggested that FSDA Executive Director and the Director-General of Ghana AIDS Commission should jointly sign the certificates. To that end, discussions were held with an official of GAC

3.14. Meetings with Community Leaders by the Sub-recipients

The six Sub-recipients held community entry meetings at the level of each district to market the project to Community Opinion Leaders about the National Strategy Plan 2011-2015 Project and to also get the leaders to buy into and identify themselves with the project. Their objective was to solicit their support once again in the implementation of HIV/AIDS of the project. Peer Educators were also asked to deliver message on HIV prevention and transmission with emphasis on the principles of Abstinence, Being Faithfull .Use of Condoms and Do not share sharp instruments (ABCD), Stigma and Discrimination, Testing and Counselling Etc.

3.15 Community Education/Outreach Programme

The Peer Educators of the sub-recipients undertook outreach programme/community education to educate the various categories of the population such as adults and youth. The education was done through house-to-house campaigns, small groups of not more than 10 persons and visits to youth clubs, markets, churches and mosques. **4410** youths and **3833** adults were reached with HIV prevention interventions. Additionally, **1334** youths and **2018** adults were reached with stigma reduction activities. Furthermore, male condoms were sold to the population though reluctantly at minimal price of 3 for Gh¢0.10. Female condoms were out of stock and consequently the Sub-recipients did not distribute any female condoms. **28466** male condoms were sold to the population.

Testing and counselling exercises were also conducted to encourage the population to know their HIV status so that they would behave in an appropriate manner and lead a healthy lifestyle. In all **755** individuals received HIV testing and counselling (HTC) and

received results. It must be emphasised that the lack of adequate test kits was a hindrance to the achievement of the target.

3.16 Monitoring and Evaluation

In accordance with the understanding reached with the sub-recipients, FSDA undertook a field mission to the six districts of the northern Volta to verify data in January 2013, to ensure data quality assurance.

*Project Result Matrix which is attached gives the details of the major achievements made.

3.17 Table 1: Results Matrix

Intervention Area: Prevention of HIV Transmission

P R E V E N T I O N A N	Activity	Indicator	Output		Cumulative Results
			Target	Results	
	Held training workshop for key officers of the sub-recipients	No. of key officers of the sub-recipients trained	18 sub-recipients' officers trained	18 sub-recipients' officers trained	18
	Community meetings with stakeholders at district levels held.	No. of stakeholders participating	144 stakeholders fully informed and involved	144	144
	Undertook TC outreach activities	No. of persons counselled. No. of persons tested. No. of persons receiving results. No. of persons tested reactive	1,180 people counselled and tested for HIV during the	755 755 755 12 reactive	755 12

D B E H A V I O U R A L C H A N G E C O			quarter		
	Undertook outreach activities targeting adults	No. of persons reached on one/one and in small groups	reached 3245 out during the quarter	3833	3833
	Undertook outreach activities targeting the youths	Number of youths reached individually and in small groups	2655 youths reached in the quarter	4410	4410
	Undertook house-to-house/ small group Education campaigns(general population)	Number of persons reached individually and in small groups	5900 reached in the general population in the quarter	8243	8243
	Undertook stigma reduction activities	Number of people reached with stigma reduction activities	1770 reached for the quarter	3352	3352
	Condom promotion/distribution	Number of Male condoms distributed in the the quarter	Male=37500	28466	28466
	Monitoring and Evaluation visits	Number of field visits undertaken	1 M&E visit held during the quarter	1 M&E field visit	1

M M U N I C A T I O N S					
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3.18 Conclusion

It has to be mentioned that so far the projects have been successful. Though there are some challenges, efforts are being made to make the next phase of the project in 2013 a resounding success.

3.2 Preparation of project Proposals

In 2012, as part of FSDA's strategy to raise funds to finance its projects, it responded to a number of calls for Project proposals. These were prepared with a team of experts from within and from outside the organization. Some of the projects were also prepared in collaboration with other CSOs as a consortium. Though most of them did not yield favorable results, they provided a learning ground for the organization in preparation for future requests for proposals.

Among the proposals that were prepared and submitted were in the areas of Women Empowerment, TB Prevention and Governance. These projects were submitted to the EU, OSIWA, StopTB Partnership, Robert Carr Networks and the Ghana National Tuberculosis Control Programme.

From all these project proposals, the one that yielded result was the one submitted to the NTP. This was as a result of FSDA's membership with the Stop TB Partnership Ghana. The partnership is made up of NGOs that are committed to fighting TB in Ghana. The NTP through the Stop-TB-Partnership opened applications for members to send applications requesting for funds to implement projects on their behalf. In response to this FSDA sent an application entitled "Community Advocacy on TB Prevention in Nkwanta North District of the Volta region". The project application is currently being considered and is expected to be approved for work to begin.

3.3 Cooperation with CSOs and NGO Coalitions

FSDA- Ghana is member to a number of coalitions. These are the Regional Integration Network of Non- State Actors (RINSA), The Accra Coalition of NGOs in Health, and a member of the Stop-TB-Partnership. The organisation participated in meetings organised by these networks during the whole year. FSDA's membership of these coalitions and networks places the organisation in a good stead in the eyes of potential partners who would like to collaborate with FSDA in any of its fields of intervention.

In 2012, FSDA – Ghana attended a number of meetings, conferences and workshops. Some of these meetings were organised by the coalitions and networks that FSDA has membership in. There were others, however, that were organised by other NGOs with invitations extended to FSDA. Such meetings and gatherings have helped FSDA to network and built connections with other CSOs in Ghana. Indeed it is worth mentioning that the participation in coalitions and networks of CSOs activities have yielded some results. Majority of the conferences and workshops that FSDA participated in were organised by the Ghana Aids Commission. Some were also organised by the Stop-TB Partnership and the Coalition of NGOs in Health.

4.0 Recommendations

Every year there seems to be a surge in the number of CSOs in Ghana. This, coupled with the decrease in donor funding, otherwise known as donor fatigue, requires some high level of strategizing in order for the organization to continue its good works of impacting positively on society. This will also ensure that those who depend on FSDA-Ghana would continue to benefit from its good programmes and activities. In the light of this it is recommended that in its search for projects it has to adopt non-traditional methods, which includes design of proposals in search of donors, in the mobilization of funds for its good projects and but rather engage in some income generating activities. It should also seek more partnership and more coalition building. It should make itself sustainable by making itself more relevant to its constituents and stakeholders.

Also it would be good for FSDA-Ghana to market itself to the world through publicity. Though the organization had a website, there is room for improvement as it can use twitter, facebook, whatsapp etc. Using such platforms would market the organization's achievements to the world.

5.0 Administrative

FSDA-Ghana maintained its core staff of Executive Director, Director of Administration and Finance, Project Officers, M&E Officer and the Accountant. However, FSDA-Ghana engaged its pool of Consultants and Volunteers for the implementation of projects as and when projects come