

HFFG PARTNERS THE PALLADIUM GROUP TO CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCING TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN KUMASI METRO AND TWO OTHER DISTRICTS IN ASHANTI REGION WITH FUNDING SUPPORT FROM UKAID

As adolescent transition from childhood to adulthood, emotional, cognitive, and social factors define their stage. Given their level of need and the number of unanswered questions regarding healthy behavior, adolescents are underutilizing current health care systems. This is due to several factors including cost, scheduling and concerns about confidentiality; deducing from the aforementioned factors coupled with the growing population of adolescents worldwide and that matter Ghana.

The need has arose for the welfare of adolescents to become a focus for governments, policy makers, civil society organizations and health service providers. The Ghana adolescent reproductive health project (GHARH) seeks to address this need.

The project commenced in December 2013 in the Brong Ahafo region with funding support from UKaid through the Palladium Group. It was designed to contribute towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal 5 with activities that currently contribute to Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 5 as well as the reduction of teenage pregnancy in the 27 Districts in the region. Hope For Future Generations, a women, children and young people focused Ghanaian-based organization, partnered Palladium to implement the GHARH project in 9 districts in the Brong Ahafo Region. As a result of its countless achievements in this region, the project has been extended to the Ashanti region to contribute to the reduction in the rising adolescent pregnancies in the region. Records from the District Health Information Management Systems (DHIMS) indicate 19,451 teenage pregnancies in 2015.

The project goal is to contribute to 6% reduction in teenage pregnancies in Kumasi Metro, Kwabre East and Atwima Nwabiagya by end of July, 2017. This phase is also supported by UKaid through the Palladium Group.

HFFG, in partnership with key community stakeholders like the Queen mothers, seeks to improve access to quality information and services on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for adolescents aged 10-19 years. The opportunity will also be seized to reach out to parents on issues of adolescents' SRHR and garner support from parents to reduce teenage pregnancies.

HFFG will adopt several strategies such as building capacities of community structures to respond actively to SRHR of adolescents and young people in the selected districts in the Ashanti region.