

RUTGERS ‘*SHOWS PPAG THE WAY*’ IN GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH PROGRAMMING

Discriminatory gender norms and roles, unequal power relations and social structures limit the aspirations and opportunities of both women and men. Women are often excluded from participatory and decision-making processes, often times resulting in disempowerment many unmet needs, whereas men struggle with strict and unrealistic expectations of masculinity that can result in negative behaviours and coping mechanisms.

To do away with these, Rutgers International, the Netherlands based IPPF Member Association, under the Centres of Excellence (CoE) project, has trained staff of the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG) on need to adopt a Gender Transformative Approach (GTA) programming to address the root causes discriminatory gender norms and roles. The workshop held as part of the GAC/IPPF funded CoE programme shared expertise and knowledge to strengthen the delivery and quality of Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Youth Friendly Services.



Photo: CoE Coordinator, Mr. Ceasar Kaba delivering a presentation

Senior Technical Advisor at Rutgers Jacqueline Gaybor noted that, development programmes and initiatives must imbed GTA.

“Our programming must change norms and values that tolerate, justify and legitimise violence. Otherwise it will be impossible to prevent and end sexual and gender-based violence and ensure the rights of young people in all their diversity. At the core are human rights and we ensure accountability, participation, non-discrimination and equality in our programmes”



Photo: Senior Technical Advisor at Rutgers Jacqueline Gaybor making a presentation

After days of hands-on training on the Theory of Change (ToC) for Gender Transformative Programming, participants confessed their enlightenment on how restrictive gender norms and power imbalances prevent many people from accessing sexual health information and services that hitherto will empower them to make well-informed choices. This harms the sexuality, health and rights of young people,

women and even men. To assist PPAG designing and implementing gender equality work to achieve transformational and sustainable impact, Rutgers developed a ToC for Gender Transformative Programming to facilitates the empowerment of adolescent girls and sexually and gender diverse groups, and engages boys and men as gendered beings who can be part of the solution, but also have their own specific SRHR needs and vulnerabilities.

GTA examines, challenges and transforms the underlying causes of gender inequality rooted in inequitable social structures and institutions. By doing so, it seeks to eradicate the systemic forms of gender-based discrimination by creating or strengthening equitable gender norms, dynamics and systems that support gender equality.



Photo: Participants during the practical sessions



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Participants are equipped with an understanding and internalization of the principles of the GTA modules especially in relation to PPAG's work on gender and in the field of GTA.