

*Parliamentarians for Global Action
Acción Mundial de Parlamentarios
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires*

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION PROGRAM

**LAUNCH OF THREE-YEAR POPULATION PROJECT
MALI AND NIGERIA**

Contacts:

Members:

President: Mr. Karl-Göran Biorsmark, MP, Sweden

Treasurer: Drs. Jan Hoekema, MP, The Netherlands

Program Convenor, Sustainable Development and Population: Ms. Theresa Tagoe, MP, Ghana

Dep. Oumou Ba Sangaré, MP, Deputy, National Assembly, Mali

Ms. Jean Augustine, MP, Canada

Sen. Khairat Abdul-Razaq Gwadabe, MP, Senator and Chairman, Senate Committee on the Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

Hon. Ghali mar Na'Abba, Speaker, House of Representatives, Nigeria

Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, United States

Rep. Cynthia McKinney, United States

Dip. Cristina Guevara, Argentina

Advisors:

Dr. Fred Sai, Senior Advisor, former Chair, IPPF

Ms. Margaret Catley-Carlson, Senior Advisor, Chair, Global Water Partnerships

Dr. Steven Sinding, Senior Advisor, Professor of Clinical Public Health, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

Ambassador Nicholas H. Biegan, Former Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations

Staff:

Ms. Shazia Rafi, Secretary-General

Ms. Katie Tell, Program Officer, Sustainable Development and Population

Fatime Dam, Executive Officer

Carrie Cella, Development Associate

Mission to Launch Three-Year Population Programme Mali and Nigeria

**Accra, Ghana, October 29 – November 10, 2001
Bamako, Mali, November 11, 2001 – November 16, 2001**

Mission Report

Introduction

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is an active network of over 1300 individual, democratically elected members of Parliament from approximately 100 countries worldwide. While its initial driving force was the critical need for disarmament, PGA today works on an expanded list of global issues such as fostering democracy, conflict prevention and management, international law and human rights, population, empowerment of women, and economic reform. PGA includes in its membership a concentration of high-level politicians, including Prime Ministers, Cabinet Ministers, and Chairs of Finance, Foreign Affairs, Population, Health, and Defense Committees. Many of PGA's members have left parliament for higher government posts.

The goal of PGA's Sustainable Development and Population (SDP) Programme is to galvanize political leadership at the international and national levels to meet the pressing concerns of sustainable development and population. To achieve this aim, PGA works to assess the current status of national population-related activities, build parliamentary capacity and create a bridge of communication between Anglophone and Francophone Africa on population issues. In 1999, with support from the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), PGA placed two Junior Professional Officers (JPOs), one each in Ghana and Senegal, who were responsible for supporting the implementation of programs and projects agreed upon by the parliamentary committees. With continued support from Sida, PGA is now commencing its three-year population programme in Mali and Nigeria. JPOs for these countries are scheduled to begin their work in Parliament in early 2002. The overall goals of the Nigerian mission to Ghana and the Mali needs assessment mission were to introduce the SDP West Africa Population Programme, the role of PGA's JPO, assess the specific population concerns and needs in both countries, and secure a network of MPs and NGOs to work with the incoming JPOs in Mali and Nigeria. (For a complete JPO Programme Description, see Annex I)

Nigerian Delegation to Ghana – Accra, Ghana, November 4-10, 2001

From November 4 through November 10, 2001, PGA's Ghanaian National Group hosted a delegation of Nigerian MPs and population NGO representatives for one week in Ghana. The Ghanaian members included: Second Deputy Speaker of Parliament and President of PGA's African Taskforce on Peace and Democracy, Honorable Kenneth Dzirasah, Hon. Deputy Minister of Works and Housing and Sustainable Development and Population (SDP) Programme Convener, Theresa Ameley Tagoe, President of the Ghana Parliamentary Caucus on Population and Development and PGA member, Hon. Alhaji Abdullah Salifu and Presidential Advisor on HIV/AIDS and SDP Programme Advisor, Dr. Fred Sai. SDP Programme Officer Katie Tell joined the delegation. PGA coordinated the Nigerian visit in collaboration with Pathfinder International, Nigeria. Due to the tireless efforts of PGA's dedicated members, this mission was a tremendous success.

The Nigerian mission to Ghana had the following objectives:

- To introduce PGA and the Sustainable Development and Population Programme;
- To highlight the successes, both in Parliament and in the field, of PGA's three-year Population Programme activities, coordinated through the work of the JPO, Staffan Lindberg
- To explore how the programme could be replicated in Nigeria in early 2002.

The weeklong programme of activities included travel to constituency project sites both in the North and in the interior of the country, meetings in Parliament House, visits to UN agencies and meetings with governmental agencies and ministers. During each meeting and visit, specific emphasis was placed on the importance of promoting and maintaining active links between MPs and NGOs – one of the fundamental aims and achievements of the PGA programme. Members of the delegation were impressed and touched by the success stories they witnessed in the field. A Ghana Air force jet ride to the northeast district allowed the delegation to visit the Navrongo Health and Research Center (NHRC), where they met with community health workers trained by the NHRC, and saw first-hand the positive impact of such programs on the local community. Another bus trip into the countryside showcased the great work and progress of the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana's Teen Mother Center, a programme supported by local government. This visit further emphasized the importance of linking government and civil society for the implementation of effective and sustainable population programmes. (For a complete list of Nigerian mission participants, see Annex II)

The Nigerian Mission to Ghana resulted in the following achievements:

- Formation of a cohesive and enthusiastic network of Nigerian PGA members and NGOs dedicated to participating in the PGA 3-year population programme;
- Increased knowledge among MPs of population and reproductive health issues, conferences and international documents;
- Increased exposure of population NGOs' concerns and efforts to MPs;
- Commitment of NGOs and MPs to facilitating the administrative and programmatic details of the JPOs arrival and placement in Parliament;
- Creation of a plan of action for continued NGO and MP collaboration on population issues in Nigeria;
- Forging of active links between PGA's Ghana network and PGA's Nigerian members, which will empower both countries to advance effective and sustainable population projects.

Needs Assessment Mission – Bamako, Mali, November 10-16, 2001

After the Nigerian visit to Ghana, a PGA delegation was hosted in Mali by 3rd Vice President of the National Assembly and PGA Interim President, Député Oumou Ba Sangaré and President of the Finance Commission and of PGA's National Group, Député Lahaou Touré. The delegation traveled to Mali to conduct a needs assessment mission.

The needs assessment mission had the following objectives:

- To explore the pressing population issues in Mali, the relevant actors, constraints, and achievements;
- Meet with all MPs, ministers, Parliamentary Networks and NGOs active in

- population/reproductive health programs, to discuss the upcoming PGA population programme;
- Attain the administrative and programmatic support from MPs, ministers and NGOs for the JPO.

The PGA delegation was composed of Ghana's Second Deputy Speaker and President of PGA's African Taskforce on Peace and Democracy, Honorable Kenneth Dzirasah, Ghana's Presidential Advisor on HIV/AIDS and PGA's SDP Programme Advisor, Dr. Fred Sai and SDP Programme Officer Katie Tell. The PGA delegation spent 5 days in Mali, during which they conducted successful and informative meetings with Parliamentary networks on population, health and HIV/AIDS, Ministers of finance, foreign affairs, and health, numerous MPs and both the President and Vice President of the National Assembly.

During the visits with MPs and Ministers, PGA was explained in great detail, with a specific focus on the SDP Programme and the incoming JPO. The visiting delegation discussed the great importance of the JPO in Ghana, emphasizing the benefits in Parliament as well as at the constituency level. The delegation also spoke about the necessity of having a cohesive network of collaborating MPs and NGOs in Mali to ensure an effective programme for the JPO. In these discussions, all MPs and ministers expressed their great enthusiasm and support for the incoming JPO, and promised to do anything necessary to ensure the JPOs smooth arrival, placement and work with the National Assembly.

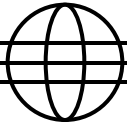
An entire morning was dedicated to meeting with 30 population and women's NGO representatives. The NGOs were extremely enthusiastic about the incoming JPO. They expressed their great appreciation for the PGA delegation. They explained that it was rare to see a male politician (Hon. Dzirasah) take such active interest in population issues, and also rare to see a U.S.-based NGO operate solely in response to the request and needs of local MPs and civil society groups.

The PGA needs assessment mission in Mali resulted in the following achievements:

- Assessment and identification of the pressing population concerns in Mali, the actors addressing these issues and the challenges and constraints they face in implementing effective and sustainable population programmes;
- Identification of a group of MPs and ministers committed to participating in the PGA population programme and to working with the incoming JPO;
- Promise of strong political support for the incoming JPO, which will facilitate her smooth placement in the National Assembly and enable her to work efficiently and effectively.

Conclusion

Thanks to the work and commitment of PGA's members in Ghana, Mali and Nigeria, the SDP mission to launch the three-year population programme in Mali and Nigeria not only met but also surpassed all expectations and goals. Both missions brought together and formalized cohesive groups of MPs, Ministers and NGOs committed to the PGA population programme and to working with the incoming JPOs. After such great success in Ghana and Senegal, PGA looks forward to commencing its 3-year population programme in Mali and Nigeria in early 2002.



Annex I
Parliamentarians for Global Action
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & POPULATION FELLOW
ABUJA, NIGERIA

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is an international membership organization for over 1300 parliament members from 99 countries around the world. Established in 1979 by a group of concerned parliamentarians, PGA unites elected national government representatives to take action on global problems that cannot be solved by any one government or parliament. While its initial focus was on disarmament issues, PGA is currently working on advancing democracy, sustainable development and population, the empowerment of women, economic reform, international law and peacekeeping.

PGA's Population Program in Nigeria is a direct result of preparing for and participating in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994. It is based on the existing pilot program in West Africa, which works in Ghana and Senegal to assist parliamentarians in applying the commitments made in the ICPD Programme of Action on a national level, supporting the engagement of civil society in the parliamentary process, encouraging communication and coordination on a regional-level in West Africa and monitoring progress in the West Africa region.

The Population and Sustainable Development Fellow in Nigeria will be responsible for supporting the implementation of programs and projects agreed upon by the Parliament of Nigeria's Population and Development Committee. The JPO should be able to build on what he/she has already learned from the academic world and any previous working experience. After completing the JPO period, the incumbent of the post shall be able to have learned how to initiate and develop a program strategy, to be responsible for managing a project and have learned how to collaborate and develop new tools within his/her areas of competence.

Position Description:

- Opportunity for a young professional pursuing a career in development to gain on-the-job training and international experience in parliamentary processes;
- Engaging the parliamentary committee with non-governmental organizations in relevant debate and action plans and facilitating communication and networking with these groups to provide information to parliamentary committees;
- Developing and promoting education and information materials for circulation to parliamentarians and other relevant interest groups;
- Assisting in monitoring and evaluating government policies and programs;
- Identifying laws that need repeal or review and providing support to parliamentarians to undertake such efforts;
- Developing and facilitating parliamentarians constituency advocacy work;
- Facilitating national, regional and international working partnerships with other national and regional parliamentary groups;
- Developing and carrying out plans for financial resource development with multilateral, bilateral, national and private donors;
- Maintaining regular communication with the PGA Population and Development Program Officer in New York;
- Establishing and maintaining an office and acting as an administrative officer for the Parliamentary Committee on Population & Development.

Necessary Qualifications:

- Law or Public Health, masters-level degree (or equivalent) in International Affairs.

- Interest and knowledge of international policy, particularly in developing countries.
- Fluent English.
- Ability to think analytically and strategically; to exercise sound judgment; to express oneself simply and clearly; to have gender sensitivity; and to have humility and sensitivity.
- Very adaptable to varied physical and other environments, including the desire to work with and gain the confidence and respect of people with different language, national and cultural background.

Desired Qualifications:

- Knowledge of African development policy.
- Proficiency in a local Nigerian language.
- Knowledge of or experience with parliamentary processes.
- Prior travels or work in Africa.
- Ph.D. Candidate.

Annex II

PGA/PATHFINDER INTERNATIONAL **NIGERIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO GHANA** **NOVEMBER 4TH-10TH, 2001**

List of Participants

Members of Parliament, Nigeria

1. **Senator Peter Adeyemo**, representing the Oyo South Senatorial zone, Ibadan and Ibarapa
2. **Senator Haruna Zego Aziz**, representing the Kaduna South Senatorial zone, Kaduna State
3. **Senator Khariat Gwadabe**, representing the federal Capital territory, Abuja
4. **Hon. Agwu O. Nnachi**, member of the House representing Ebonyi State

Members of Parliament, Ghana

6. **Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah**, 2nd Deputy Speaker, Ghana, Chair of Task Force on Peace and Democracy, PGA, National Group Member, PGA, Executive Board Member, PGA
7. **Hon. Alhaji Abdullah Salifu**, Chair, Ghanaian Caucus on Population and Development, MP, Ghana, PGA Member
8. **Hon. Theresa Tagoe**, Minister of Works and Housing, MP Ghana, Program Convener, Population and Sustainable Development Programme, PGA

PGA Advisor

9. **Dr. Fred Sai**, Senior Advisor, Sustainable Development and Population Programme, PGA

PGA Staff

10. **Ms. Katie Tell**, Programme Officer, Sustainable Development and Population Programme, PGA

Pathfinder Staff

11. **Mr. Mike Egboh**, Country Representative, Pathfinder International, Nigeria Office
12. **Mrs. Dije Gimba**, Program Officer, IEC in the Packard Project and base, Pathfinder International, Kaduna Field Office

Parliament of Ghana Staff

13. **Mr. Sammuell Addei**, Senior Protocol Assistant Clerk, Office of Parliament
14. **Ms. Grace Y. Acheampong**, Committee Manager, Office of Parliament
15. **Mr. Peter Telfer**, Protocol Clerk, Office of Parliament

NGOs

16. **Dr. Y. D. Armiya'u**, Medical Director, Katsina Nursing Home, sub-grantee under the Packard northern Nigeria Reproductive Health Project, Katsina State

17. **Dr. Grace Delano**, Executive Director of the Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH), Ibadan, Oyo State
18. **Mr. David Gobgab**, Program Manager, Packard Reproductive health project, under the sub-grantee COCIN Hospital, Maiduguri, Borno State
19. **Dr. Jonathan Karshima**, Medical Director of the Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA), Jos, Plateau State
20. **Professor F.E. Okonofua**, Executive Director of Women's Health and Action Research Center (WHARC), Benin, Edo State