



JugendPartnerschaft Ghana e.V.

Hinterer Rindweg 79
D-68526 Ladenburg

Dear Members and Friends of JPG and YHFG,

In January, Anke van Amelsfoort and Jolien van der Geugten held a networking meeting with former YHFG volunteers of the Dutch organisation *Meet Africa*. We are very happy, that some of them have joined our regular Skype meetings to exchange ideas and plan activities. Herewith, we would like to give you an update of the past six months at JPG and YHFG and invite everyone to get in contact with us at info@jugendghana.de.

News from the Zongoire Junior High School (JHS)

The construction of our JHS in Zongoire is currently suspended due to lack of funding. While the brick work is complete, we still need to find funds for roofing, flooring, plastering and painting. On 22 February an ice skating event was organised by the *Dutch Cobbenhagenmavo High School*. 1st and 2nd year students raised 1163 € for roofing material.



Current status of the new JHS.



JHS students after class.

Through the Dutch online platform *1procentclub* we are currently raising funds to furnish the JHS classrooms. Locally produced benches for one classroom will cost 1700 €. So far, we have collected 465 €. In addition, we won a 500 € prize for our project. If you would like to know more or think about supporting this project please go to <http://www.1procentclub.nl/projects/ghanajuniorhighbenches>.

A first class of 58 students is using a classroom in the old building of the primary school. In September 2011 a second class will start.

Currently we still need 22 000 € to complete the school and enable the JHS students to move in.

Harvest Academy: Football and Computer Lessons

A teacher of the Cobbenhagenmavo high school collected 9 pairs of football boots and 6 pairs of shin-guards. A donation of 70 € by the *Lions Club Utrecht Kromme Rijn* enabled us to equip the under-12 football team with new jerseys. Boots and jerseys were received with great excitement. Since late April two teams of the Harvest Academy (under-12 and under-14) participate with great enthusiasm in the *Upper East Regional Juvenile Premier League*. However, still many of them come for the weekly training without shoes. Thus, donations of football boots will be very welcome.



Football training of Harvest Academy, new jerseys and shoes, playing barefoot, IT classes at the Skill Centre.

The computer classes, which are offered at the Skill Centre on a regular basis, were attended by many members of the Harvest Clubs and the Harvest Academy during their Easter holidays.



Youth Parliament 2011

On 18 February the annual Youth Parliament took place with financial support from the *Lions Clubs Utrecht Host*, the Bolgatanga Municipal Assembly and several private enterprises in Bolga. The motto was "Bridging the gap between adolescent sexuality and HIV risk". Six schools with 164 Senior High School students were present when four student teams debated controversial statements.

Internals: The situation of YHFG and Sunuga Project and a JPG visit to Ghana.

Since the beginning of 2011, our external project funding has ended. For now, all YHFG activities are funded through donations and other short-term support. Whilst we are intensively working on funding proposals, we are also critically reviewing our past activities and the focus of our projects.

The youth work in Bolgatanga is a great success, in particular since the opening of the youth centre. Young people take part in the offered programs with much dedication and the activities are constantly developing.

In the Sunuga peanut project, in contrast, YHFG has repeatedly faced serious challenges and not yet fully recovered from two failed crops due to flooding. Recently, due to high local peanut prices, our efforts to sell the EPEFA peanuts on the international market have finally failed. Furthermore, lack of commitment and self-reliance of EPEFA farmers and their leadership have so far kept the project from becoming sustainable and autonomous.

Currently, YHFG and EPEFA are trying their best for a fresh start. During their last congress EPEFA members elected a new chairman and a female vice, who have shown much dedication so far. Several strict measures were agreed to ensure a better commitment and accountability of EPEFA farmers, most importantly for the repayment of seed loans. From now on, the focus for selling their produce should be the local market.



YHFG board meeting

Between 25 March and 15 April JPG members Anke van Amelsfoort and Julia Leimkugel have visited YHFG. With the submission of new project proposals we hope to ensure the continuity of the youth work in Bolga. In a joint meeting of the YHFG board and staff we started a discussion on the future focus of YHFG work. In the light of the present situation and the challenges in the Sunuga Peanut project it was agreed that YHFG needs to focus their resources on core competences: education and advocacy. YHFG will no longer engage in selling the produce of EPEFA but rather support the farmers in advocacy issues and link them up to support programs of the Ghanaian government or larger NGOs with agricultural expertise.

Website and Facebook: Youth Harvest Partners Ghana

We are currently updating the JPG website. There is a new section on research projects of the Inholland University in collaboration with YHFG. We also aim to provide more information about our school partnerships. After English, German and Italian, the JPG page will soon also be available in Dutch.



Facebook logo of JPG and YHFG.

The joint Facebook page of YHFG and JPG has been published in March 2011. We are looking forward to share news and thoughts with old and new friends and supporters. Please find us on <http://www.facebook.com/youth.harvest.partners.ghana/>.

With best regards,

Julia Leimkugel, Gero Frisch and Veronika Schlicker; Board of JPG