



JugendPartnerschaft Ghana e.V.

Hinterer Rindweg 79
D-68526 Ladenburg

Dear Members and Friends of JPG and YHFG,

on the weekend 1/2 October, the annual members meeting of JPG took place in Leicester, England. We have discussed old and new projects, as well as recent chances and challenges and developed our strategy for the coming year.

During the past year JPG has benefited from increasing involvement of Dutch JPG members and former YHFG volunteers. Finally, this is now reflected in the Dutch version of our JPG website (http://jugendghana.de/index_nl.html). Thanks a lot to everyone who has helped in the translation.

We are most delighted to announce that YHFG has been granted funding support for two innovative and exciting new projects. They take the efforts of YHFG with students and apprentices on sexual health education and education support to a new level.

STEP-UP — Seamstress Training and Education Program Upper-East

In August 2011, the Urban Youth Fund of the UN-HABITAT has awarded 59 project grants to urban youth projects in 43 countries. YHFG has been granted 20'000 USD for its STEP-UP program which we have developed out of our experiences in working with seamstresses in Bolgatanga.

It is the main objective of the STEP-UP program to reduce poverty among young seamstresses by providing the necessary skills to start a successful business. Currently, many young seamstresses fail with their start-up business due to inadequate training in entrepreneurship and quality production during apprenticeship. Instead of becoming independent, they fall back into poverty or have to commit themselves to early marriage.

The STEP-UP program will establish a shop and workshop as an educational facility to give the girls additional 12 months training on technical and entrepreneurial issues. This infrastructure will at the same time serve as a place, where they work and earn their income in a self-managed business. YHFG will also offer educational seminars on reproductive health and sexual rights to improve responsible family planning. Each year's graduates will train the next cohort of 25 seamstresses. Sales from the shop will ensure long-term sustainability.

Youth SPEEK — Supporting Peers and Encouraging Empowerment through Knowledge

The Sir Halley Stewart Trust Foundation has awarded a two year funding grant to YHFG for the Youth SPEEK program. Youth SPEEK has emerged out of the desire of YHFG and Harvest clubs to reach out with sexual health education to their peers in rural communities. Here, sexuality and sexual transmittable diseases (STD) are still taboo subjects. Lack of self-confidence and the lack of youth-friendly health services compromise the access of young people to sexual health care.

Peer education will be the main strategy to educate rural youth about sexual and reproductive health, their rights and responsibilities to lower the rates of HIV/STD transmissions, unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions. Community health care providers will be included in the project and offered training to help improve the youth friendly access to health care. YHFG aims to build the capacity of young people to advocate for their rights. Experiences from a Peer Counselling pilot project, that has been carried out in 2010 (see JPG Newsletter No. 6) has helped to develop the current program.



YHFG staff and volunteers celebrate Youth SPEEK.



Training of new YHFG volunteers

Given the increasing commitment of former YHFG volunteers, JPG wants to support the voluntary service at YHFG. On 20 September JPG members and former volunteers Carlien Spierings, Jolien van der Geugten and Ruud van Nimwegen organised a special training for six new Dutch YHFG volunteers.

In the beginning, the participants explored their expectations, how to work in a Ghanaian context and how to carry out sexual education. Then, Jolien van der Geugten gave a presentation on sexual and reproductive health in the Bolgatanga Municipality. Finally, the questions how to talk about sexuality, what are your own norms and values concerning sexuality, and what are norms and values in Ghana were discussed. The next preparation training for new volunteers will take place in January 2012.

Welcome Hillary Adongo and Young Professionals Program (YPP)

Hillary Adongo joined the YHFG team in September 2011 as project coordinator of the new YP Program. He is a 25-year old graduate of the University for Development Studies, who has been a Harvest Club executive in the first years of YHFG. During his bachelor studies he has been working with various youth groups on campus.

YPP is a new initiative of YHFG in cooperation with *Talent Beyond Limits*. It supports Dutch and Ghanaian professionals to use their talents more effectively through inter-cultural learning and cooperation on a specific project.

In Northern Ghana, young graduates of all backgrounds face severe challenges when starting their professional life. YPP is an approach to help these young professionals to accomplish their goals by linking them up with Dutch professionals of their field on an individual level for practical training, advice and support. In a pilot phase of YPP from November 2011 until June 2012, four YHFG staff will be linked to four Dutch professionals.



Hillary Adongo

JPG/YHFG Calender 2012

From our favorite pictures of YHFG projects and life in Northern Ghana, we have created an A4 wall calender for the coming year 2012. It can be ordererd for 10 € plus shipment at info@jugendghana.de. All profit (5 €) will directly benefit the projects in Ghana. Until now, we do not have any external project funds in 2011. Thus, the sale of these calendars will be very important in maintaining our sexual health activities for children and young people in Bolgatanga.

If you would like to learn more about our work or get involved, you are very welcome to get in touch at info@jugendghana.de.

With best regards,

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

