



JugendPartnerschaft Ghana e.V.

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## Dear Members and Friends of JPG and YHFG,

We are looking back on some busy and exciting months at YHFG in Bolgatanga. Most importantly, two large projects have started requiring intense preparatory work. The construction of the Junior High School finally has resumed and YHFG is preparing for its 10 years anniversary celebration.

### Apotdabogo Junior High School

In 2011, *Otto-Pankok* school in Mülheim, Germany, has donated 7500€ towards the construction of the Junior High School in Zongoire. In addition, 4000€ were granted by *Spa!B* and 1000€ by *Novartis Vaccines* in Italy. With these funds, YHFG has resumed work at the school to finalise the roof, windows and floors. Through the Dutch online platform *1procentclub* we have raised funds to furnish the first JHS classrooms. <http://www.1procentclub.nl/projects/ghanajuniorhighbenches/>. We would like to thank all supporters!

To enable the existing classes to finally move into their school, only blackboards and doors are now needed. To complete this school, it is left with painting, outside plastering and furnishing of two classrooms.



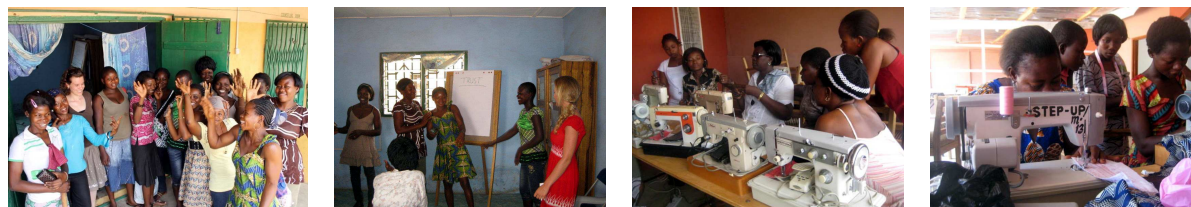
*Students of the Otto-Pankok Schule raising funds for the partner school in Ghana in a charity run*

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

funded by UN Habitat Urban Youth Fund and Rabobank, the Netherlands

STEP UP was launched in January 2012. First steps included the recruitment of the participating women, development of the training curriculum and setting up of the training centre and shop. Local partners are the *Dress Makers Association Bolgatanga*, *Bolgatanga Municipal Assembly*, *National Youth Authority*, *Sirigu Women Organisation for Pottery and Art (SWOPA)* and the *Widows and Orphans Movement (WOM)*. With the help of *Meet Africa* and *Talents Beyond Limits*, additional financial support to the project was granted by *Rabobank* in the Netherlands.

In February the STEP-UP participants paid a **visit to the Sirigu Women organisation for Pottery and Art (SWOPA)**, which was founded in 1997 and now counts 450 members. The purpose of this visit was to inspire the young women on the achievements of other women's initiatives and encourage them to be creative, innovative and autonomous themselves.



*STEP-UP participants during the Talent Development workshop and training on their new sewing machines*

On 27 March, a **Talent Development Training** workshop was carried out by Abigail Adumolga (project manager), Suze van Bosch (Dutch volunteer) and Jolien van der Geugten (JPG member). The focus of the training was on how the women can identify and make use of their existing talents in the STEP-UP program and how they can cooperate successfully as a group by learning to trust each other. The second part of the workshop concentrated on sexual reproductive health.

After the completion of the STEP-UP centre, the necessary machines and equipment were purchased and set up. The women received hands on training and were assigned their own sowing machines.



## Youth SPEEK — Supporting Peers and Encouraging Empowerment through Knowledge

funded by the Sir Halley Stewart Trust, UK

In collaboration with Ghana Health Services, five communities were selected where this project - a peer led sexual health intervention - may be useful. YHFG discussed the project in detail in meetings with the chiefs and other important members of the communities (including women and youth leaders). In collaboration with the communities, for each community two peer educators (PE), one male and one female, were chosen. They will receive monthly allowances, regular training and a bicycle to perform their duties in their home community.



Linda Anaabah

Linda Anaabah has joined the YHFG staff as project coordinator for SPEEK. Linda is holding a BA degree in religious studies, she has worked as a peer educator before and also coordinated a number of peer counselling groups in Bolgatanga.

During their first one week training programme, the peer educators (PE) were prepared for their work in the field. They were confronted with accurate and up to date information on reproductive and sexual health issues, including HIV and AIDS, sexual transmittable diseases and pregnancy. Besides, they developed a deeper understanding and skills on peer led health education methods. They discussed their own attitudes and values regarding youth sexuality issues and they were trained in communication and group working methods. After the training the educators were equipped with bicycles and started their work on 1 May.



*SPEEK Community entry, Discussing SPEEK with local clinics, Training of Peer Educators, PEs set off to their communities.*

## Research at YHFG

In the past months several research projects have been carried out at YHFG by Dutch students of *Inholland University*. During their stay in Bolga, they worked as volunteers in the Harvest Academy giving football training and assisted in the Sexual Reproductive Health Lessons. At the same time, they carried out their interviews with adolescents. For example, Daan van Benthem, a sports and Lifestyle student, investigated the factors which influence the participation in sports for students in Bolgatanga. His findings contribute to the improvement of the Harvest Academy and future sporting activities in the youth centre of YHFG. All reports are published on the JPG and YHFG websites. Research proposals are moderated by Jolien (JPG research coordinator) and YHFG staff, to ensure the research contributes to YHFG work.

## 2002 - 2012 YHFG 10 years

This year YHFG is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In the course of the year, some activities to celebrate this milestone will take place in Ghana. JPG is congratulating with full hearts to the achievements of the past years. There will be a reunion of Dutch volunteers, JPG members and John Krugu in Amersfoort, The Netherlands on 16 June 2012.

## Volunteer at YHFG?

YHFG is in strong need of volunteers and would be happy to welcome enthusiastic people of all ages who would like to stay in Ghana between a few weeks to 12 months to help them run their various programs. Please get in touch at [info@jugendghana.de](mailto:info@jugendghana.de), if you would like to learn more about our work or get involved,

Thank you for your interest,  
with best regards,

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