



JugendPartnerschaft Ghana e.V.

Hinterer Rindweg 79
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Dear Members and Friends of JPG and YHFG,

before an exciting year is coming to an end, we would like to update you on the projects for children and adolescents in Northern Ghana.

Finally! Apotdabogo Junior High School completed

Two years after the project launch and with the first students reaching their final year, students and teachers have moved into the newly constructed Apotdabogo Junior High School building. After a long struggle, everyone at JPG and YHFG is very happy and relieved to reach this stage of the project. The credit belongs to all the donors. Especially Saskia Vreeman, Ruud Schonk and Progress PME have helped substantially to complete the final steps. Our next goal will be to construct toilets for the Apotdabogo schools.



Finally! Students and teachers enjoying spacious classrooms for teaching and learning.

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

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

After months of hard work and preparation the STEP-UP project was officially launched on 27 June by the Bolgatanga Municipality. The STEP-UP project aims to improve entrepreneurial skills and quality standards of young dressmakers as well as educating them on family planning and sexual reproductive health.

A shop was built at the Craft village to give the dressmakers the space and opportunity to create and sell their products. To promote their shop, the participants have advertised their project with flyers, on the radio and with posters all over town.

The dressmakers have gone through several training units since the start of the project, for example a workshop on Working Capital Management, given by the National Board on Small Scale Industries. The girls expressed their gratitude as they had never received training on entrepreneurial skills. They believe it will help them within the STEP-UP project as well as in their future businesses.

In September JPG member Jolien van der Geugten, visited the project and discussed requirements for the international fair trade market with the STEP-UP participants .



STEP-UP launch, June 2012

If you are interested in the products of the STEP-UP girls, for instance an authentic laptop sleeve, a phone cover or a nice bag (for yourself or as a gift!) you can order them online at: <http://stepupfairtrade.wordpress.com/>



Youth SPEEK — Supporting Peers and Encouraging Empowerment through Knowledge

funded by the Sir Halley Stewart Trust, UK

The Youth SPEEK Project is a sex education program which aims at reducing STIs and teenage unintended pregnancies amongst young people in ten communities of the Upper East Region. The activities are delivered by Peer Educators and the local health services. So far, the SPEEK program has reached 1765 young people (854 female, 911 male) covering 5 communities and 11 schools within the first year. In 2013, the Peer Educators will also work with out of school youth in their communities.

Young people were excited about what they have learnt from SPEEK:

I can now talk to my mom about my sexual development and feelings because I know, from SPEEK that those changes are normal to me. (student from Adakura JHS, Dulugu)

I used to believe that girls have 'save periods' but SPEEK has made me realize that no period is save and I should always use a condom if I don't want to impregnate my girlfriend. (student from Straight-Way academy JHS, Tindonshio)

Now I carry at least a condom with me. I always put it in my purse and I don't feel embarrassed if someone sees it. It doesn't mean I want to have sex, it simply means I'm being responsible. (student from Kalbeo-Tindonsobligu JHS, Kalbeo)

Initially, I had held the believe that AIDS patients should be left to die and the world will be an AIDS free place for us to live in. But the SPEEK program opens my eyes - we cannot just blame the AIDS patients. I also have a responsibility for an AIDS free world; I need to protect myself always and tell my friends to do so. (student from Afeghera No. 1, Zonno)

Besides delivering the school program, Peer Educators were given full boxes of condoms each to sell to young people within their communities. Purchases of condoms were very encouraging. In all 908 condoms have been sold by the Peer Educators in the past six months. Some Peer Educators used between 5 to 7 days to finish selling a full box (of 100 condoms).

Veronika Danuor, may she rest in peace

With great sorrow we announce the passing of Veronika Danuor, who worked for YHFG as a civil servant since August 2012. She was killed in a horrible accident on the Bolgatanga-Tamale road on 15 November, which claimed 36 lives.

Veronika was active in the SPEEK project and reproductive health education. She was much loved by all YHFG staff and students and will greatly be missed. Our thoughts and deepest sympathy are with her family and friends.



JPG and volunteers meetings



10 years YHFG reunion
June 2012

Former YHFG volunteers, JPG members and John Krugu celebrated the 10th anniversary of YHFG in a joyful reunion in Amersfoort, The Netherlands on 16 June 2012. It was a lovely party and a great opportunity to get to know each other and share memories of working at YHFG.

On 4 November 2012, the annual JPG members meeting has taken place in Berlin with increasing involvement of Dutch JPG members. We have discussed how JPG in 2013 can support YHFG projects in a meaningful way with the help of friends and former volunteers. Veronika Schlicker has left the JPG board this year. We would like to thank her for the great work and hope that she will continue to support us in the future. Anke van Amelsfoort and Jolien van der Geugten have been elected as new board members.

We would like to thank all donors and supporters for their help and interest in 2012. We wish you a peaceful Christmas and a happy and prosperous Year 2013.

Anke van Amelsfoort, Jolien van der Geugten, Julia Leimkugel and Gero Frisch
Board of JPG