



JugendPartnerschaft Ghana e.V.

Hinterer Rindweg 79
D-68526 Ladenburg

Dear Members and Friends of JPG and YHFG,

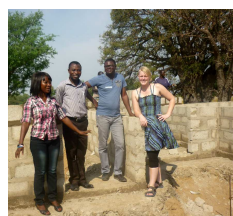
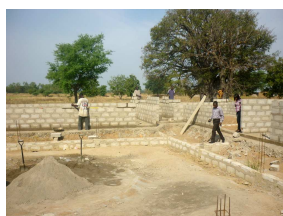
After some silence, we have lots of great news, which we would like to share with you. YHFG has certainly been busy.

YHFG Skills and Study Youth Centre

funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), supported by the Rotary Club Heidelberg and many friends of YHFG



Within just a few months and thanks to great efforts of all involved parties, the new Youth Centre of YHFG has been constructed in the Yikene community, Bolgatanga. It will provide a point of reference and support for all students facing challenges in or outside of school. It will also host a **Remedial Classes Summer School** (s. page 2) for girls who aim to rewrite their final exams. This has been a dream of YHFG and JPG for many years and it is a wonderful experience to witness this dream come to life.



Construction of the Youth Centre in Yikene, Dec 2013, Abigail Adumolga, David Ayine, John Krugu and Hilda van Reeuwijk

Impressions from Hilda, a former volunteer, who visited the construction site in Dec 2013

And there it was in the middle of the field. The red ground dry, the sun shining on the hard working people. In the background a Baobab tree is watching over this all. The building has already grown to the tree's middle. It's getting so big. The Baobab is watching over this process like a grandfather over his grandchild growing... the beginning of a bright future. It's the building of the new youth center.

The YHFG were given four plots of land from the community for this youth center. It will provide enough room for all present projects and counselling, it will home a bigger computer room and library...and there will be more space for several new youth programs. The first of these programs will be summer schooling for girls to support them to stay in school and finish their education. The youth center has a central position between several senior- and junior high schools. It is not only a youth center but will be the center of youth in Bolgatanga.

Can the future get any brighter? Yes! – The youth center is located on only one of the donated plots leaving three plots with the potential to house more great projects of YHFG. With one last look at the Baobab, I turn around. I feel happy and inspired by all these terrific ideas and hard working people. With the right support it will not only be a bright future for the YHFG but for all the youth they reach.

4 April 2014: Official Commissioning of the Youth Centre.



A big gathering witnessed the official commissioning of the Youth Centre in Yikene, followed by a great party. The Upper East Deputy Regional Minister, Hon Daniel Awenyue Syme, called on the youth of the region to take advantage of the new facilities. He was hopeful that the remedial program will help promote girls education and support them to progress up the academic ladder. The chief of Yikene, Naaba Nyaaba called on his community members to cooperate with the YHFG to ensure that programs of the centre are sustainable and can benefit future generations. Many friends and partners of YHFG attended the ceremony, including the Municipal Chief Executive of Bolgatanga, the Regional Director of Public Health, the Regional School Health director, leaders of sister NGOs, youth- and women groups.



Remedial Classes Summer School

High failure rates in the final exams of Junior and Senior High School have always been a great concern of YHFG. Due to costs for remedial classes or long distances to their home villages, many students do not resit their exams. At this stage, girls are often forced into early marriage instead of continuing their education.

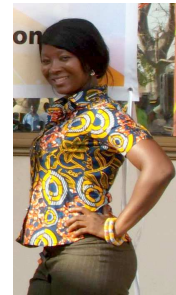
To give girls a fair chance to successfully complete school and develop their education further, YHFG is organising a Remedial Classes Summer School in the new Youth and Study Centre. Between May and October, 200 girls can prepare here to resit their exams with the help of voluntary remedial teachers. Accommodation will be provided for 50 students from remote areas.

The project will take place for the first time in 2014 and is coordinated by Abigail Adumolga, the Youth Centre coordinator of YHFG. We are still looking for partners and supporters to help us fund this great initiative and would be grateful for your support!

Meeting YHFG staff: Abigail Adumolga, Youth Centre Coordinator

Abigail is a social worker and has been working for the YHFG since 2009.

As Youth centre coordinator, I coordinate several youth programs, such as the sexual productive health lessons in five senior high and six junior high schools, the Youth Parliament, Harvest Academy, and the Remedial Classes Summer School. I start the morning with office work and then in the afternoon I give lessons, work with and talk to youngsters. I love my work; I like to interact with young people and get happy if I can help them with their problems. I do everything I can to help young people to develop and see them achieve their goals and potentials.



I have a degree in Social Work and I'm still developing myself in my counselling skills. I want to continue learning and developing to reach my goals. This, I want to teach the youngsters: I aim to help them to become self-motivated. To discover who they are, what they want, what their skills are and to believe in themselves. With that in mind they can work hard towards what they want, no matter where they come from or where they find themselves in life.

Thank you all for your continuous support in helping the youth of the Upper East Region!

Youth SPEEK — Youth friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services workshop

On the completion of the Youth SPEEK project, YHFG organised a workshop for nurses and other family planning staff from various health facilities in the Bolgatanga municipality. The regional director in-charge of public health and the Municipal director for reproductive health services led a lively discussion with the participants.



It was noted, that young people do not attend their health facilities for SRH issues due to a lack of infrastructure. However, the health workers also admitted that traditional beliefs sometimes keep them from being friendly to adolescents who seek help with SRH issues.

While participants are hoping for the implementation of better SRH policies of the Ghana Health Services, they also committed themselves to spend more time each day to attend to young people with SRH challenges.

2014 JPG Meeting with John Krugu and volunteers

In late summer 2014, JPG again plans to organise a meeting with former YHFG volunteers and John Krugu. Friends and supporters of YHFG are cordially invited. A date and location will be announced soon.

Thank you for your interest and support,
with best regards,

Julia Leimkugel, Gero Frisch and Jolien van der Geugten-de Lang;
Board of JPG