



JugendPartnerschaft Ghana e.V.

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## Dear Members and Friends of JPG and YHFG,

Before a busy year is coming to an end we have lots of exciting news to share with you. Furthermore, we would like to give you some insight in some of the research activities which were carried out at YHFG.

### YHFG Remedial Class Summer School

A central objective of the newly built SKILLS youth- and study centre is to support young women in Bolgatanga towards successfully completing their education after failing their exams. Herewith, the YHFG aims to improve the education of girls and fight forced marriages and teenage pregnancies in Northern Ghana. Therefore, YHFG planned to set up a summer school, that offers free remedial courses for these girls in order to prepare them for resit exams.

The first summer school in the youth centre took place between July and October 2014. After intensive preparations in collaborations with schools and Ghana Education Services, the social worker Abigail Adumolga had promoted the project through radio programmes even in remote communities. In personal consultation with the families of the girls, she asked for their consent and support as well as their assurance, that the girls after passing their exams will have the chance to continue their education.

In total, 80 girls and 55 boys took part in the summer school. Out of 84 students from remote villages, 30 girls resided in the newly constructed student accommodation of the centre, the other 54 students found accommodation in Bolgatanga with the help of Ms Adumolga and friends. Boys were accepted to the program according to the same selection criteria, as long as all other selected girls could participate. For the various subjects, study groups were founded according to actual demand. The lessons were carried out by volunteer teachers and university students several times a week. The last resit exam took place in early October. The results are expected in March 2015.



*Summer School 2014*

### The YHFG 'I can do anything' sport tournament 2014

On the 22nd and 23rd November 2014, YHFG with the support of the Kuntinkantan Foundation (the Netherlands), hosted for the third time a sports tournament for students from the Harvest Academy and physically challenged youth. The goal of this tournament was to provide opportunities for disabled youth to participate in sporting activities designed to increase self-esteem, encourage independence and enhance quality of life.

This year's tournament did not only include the deaf but also the physically challenged. Football, basketball and many fun activities kept the youth and many visitors engaged for two days. The tournament was very well received in the general public. Other developmental partners have been urged to get involved so more other disabled teams of other regions can be included and more youth can be empowered through sports.



*I can do anything sports tournament 2014*



## Research on sexual and reproductive health and rights

In the past years, various research activities have been conducted at YHFG concerning sexual and reproductive health education. The results were of great value for the evaluation and improvement of several YHFG projects.



SRH education in a Senior High School

Currently, John Krugu (director of YHFG) and Jolien van der Geugten (Dutch JPG board member) both work on their PhD research regarding the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and rights of adolescents in the Upper East Region in Ghana. They evaluated interventions regarding SRH at schools and within communities, and they interviewed over 75 youths about premarital sex, contraceptive use, teenage pregnancies, peer pressure and multiple sexual partnerships. So far, two papers have been published, one about the youths' conceptions, motives and practices concerning premarital sex in Bolgatanga, and one about the students' views on the SRH education given by YHFG.

The latter examined students' opinions on the SRH programme of YHFG in Bolgatanga and explored the facilitators and barriers for educators regarding the implementation of the programme. According to 147 students, the SRH programme was both important and interesting. Their expectations were moderately well met. They agreed that the main objectives of the programme and most of the objectives regarding the 'family planning' sessions had been achieved.

For three educators, important facilitators were a clear manual, the presence of foreign volunteers working as educators, the increased influence of new media, students' eagerness to learn, and the feeling that the SRH programme really benefited students' lives.

Important barriers were traditional and cultural influences, lack of funding and poor scheduling of the programme within the schools.

The published papers can be found at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/IHcgEG4gEVtSTmMRc9KS/full#.VH9nios7Q74> and <http://www.ajol.info/index.php/ajrh/article/view/98380>



Jolien van der Geugten with students.

## JPG Meeting with John Krugu and Calendar 2015

As announced in the last newsletter, JPG members and some former volunteers have met with John Krugu in Amersfoort, The Netherlands. During the official JPG meeting, the projects of YHFG, in particular the Youth Centre construction, the Remedial Class project and the STEP UP project were discussed and plans were made for 2015. Later, during a social gathering with former volunteers, memories were shared and latest developments were discussed.



Friends of YHFG and John Krugu.



Also, the new JPG/YHFG calendar for 2015 was introduced, which is for sale for 10€. It contains interesting pictures about the life in Northern Ghana and the work of YHFG. If you are interested in buying a calendar, please contact [info@jugendghana.de](mailto:info@jugendghana.de)

Thank you very much for your continuous interest and support, which is vital for the work of YHFG!

We wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2015!

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