



Dear JPG members and friends of YHFG,

At the end of this extraordinary year, we would like to reconnect to our friends and supporters and give you an update about our work and the projects of YHFG in Ghana.

With great enthusiasm, YHFG has continued their youth work in the North of Ghana. The focus of their engagement is Education and Skills development, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Youth Empowerment as well as advocacy and women right in rural (farming) communities. The projects of YHFG have been supported by various international partners, such as UNICEF, RFSU, Christian Aid, CIVICUS and Plan International.



YHFG celebrating the
International Day of the Girl Child 2020

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YHFG is a youth focused NGO based in Bolgatanga, Northern Ghana, founded in 2002. JPG is the European partner organisation of YHFG, who has supported YHFG and its work from the beginning

Our newsletter reports mainly on the cooperation between YHFG and JPG. For more information on the work of YHFG please access the YHFG website, facebook or twitter feed.

The YHFG Youth Centre (YC)

The YHFG Youth Centre is the centre of many youth related activities of YHFG. This year in particular, young people started taking matters in their own hands. Members of harvest clubs have founded a new section within YHFG called **HAY – Harvest Youth Movement**. The group is developing new ways of bringing youth related topics to their target group. Particularly, during the COVID-19 lockdown, they have organised Twitter and radio discussions on various topics related to sexual and reproductive health (SRH), youth advocacy or climate change. Like this they were able to successfully continue project activities, that could no longer be carried out in the communities.

JPG student fund

JPG is currently supporting three young women in their professional education by covering their school fees and other related expenses. They all have a close and long-standing relationship with YHFG and have faced severe personal challenges that would have made it impossible for them to access and pursue a higher education.

Brenda Nyaaba is studying for a diploma at the Jackson College of Education (Ho, Volta Region). She has completed her second year and will be in her final year in 2021.



Audrey Awambire Nyaaba, is enrolled in a four-year course in French and English at the Gbewaa College of Education (Pusiga Bawku, Upper East Region).

Both young women are graduates from the YHFG Girls Remedial School and now active members of the HAY movement. Passionate about youth development, they take every opportunity to participate in YHFG programs such as radio discussions and twitter chats about SRH and COVID-19. Further, they took part in community activities with the YC team, e. g. in the training and production of reusable sanitary pads, the International Day of the Girl Child, and were engaged in issues on climate change.

They both expressed their deep gratitude for the support in their education.



Matilda Abitoma was a Harvest Club member while in the Zuarungu Senior High school. As beneficiary of the JPG Student Fund she is now doing her master's in development studies at the Kwame Nkrumah University in Kumasi. During the Corona lockdown, Matilda supported YHFG by training ten girls on the production of reusable sanitary pads and facemasks. She led the production of over 1,000 FDA-approved reusable facemasks, which were distributed at the community level and to the Ghana Health Service to support their efforts in controlling the spread of COVID-19.

Research – Impact of COVID-19 school closures on girls' education

With the financial support of JPG, YHFG will conduct a study to answer the question 'What is the impact of the COVID-19 school closures on girls' education in the Upper East region of Ghana (UER)?'

Like most countries, Ghana imposed stringent measures, including school closures and social distancing, to control the spread of COVID-19.



school girls in Northern Ghana, how much is their education at risk due to the COVI 19 pandemic?

JPG annual meeting 2020

On November 27th, JPG held their 2020 annual members assembly. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held online.

We were excited to see that some of the founding members used the opportunity of an online meeting to join in and actively contribute to JPG. It was great to reconnect to old friends and discuss our work and future plans with them.



JPG annual members assembly 2020

School closures can have unintended consequences, in particular for the education of girls. Evidence from the 2014-2015 Ebola crisis in West Africa show that they can lead to increased gender-based violence, teenage pregnancies, child marriage, exploitation and other forms of abuse against adolescent girls. Teenage pregnancy is a major reason of school dropouts in Ghana and adolescents bear the greatest risk of pregnancy-related morbidity and mortality. The adolescent pregnancy rate in the UER is higher than the national average.

The aim of this project is to recommend actions for government to protect girls' rights while schools remain closed, and to enable them to return to school after the lockdown. A cross-sectional survey design will be adopted, using a mixed method to collect both primary and secondary data in two districts.

Thank you very much for your interest in our projects and your continuous support of our work. We wish you a Happy and Healthy Year 2021!

*J. Frisch, J. van der Geugten, V. Schlicker,
- board of JPG -*