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# Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Campaign

## Ghana YMCA Trains Peer Educators

A two-day training workshop was organized on the 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 for 12 peer educators to assist in contributing to the prevention of teenage pregnancies in the country. The workshop was facilitated by two former peer educators of a previous training undertaken by YMCA. The peer educators were drawn from Greater Accra, Volta, Eastern, Western and Ashanti Regions and they were equipped with the required skills and knowledge to educate their peers on teenage pregnancy.



The project was designed to ensure that teenage pregnancies are reduced in these respective regions as surveys had indicated that large number of girls who become pregnant come from these areas. These intervention is related to the Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) – ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all levels.



## Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy Education in Konongo

The Ashanti Regional Office of Ghana YMCA in collaboration with Konongo YMCA organized a teenage pregnancy education for the pupils of Konongo Catholic Basic “C” school on November, 9<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Topics covered ranged from changes that occur in children as they mature into teenagers, causes of teenage pregnancy and its prevention. Stella Domson, one of the resource persons, led the presentation, which was lively and captured the attention of the pupils from start to the end. About 150 children attended who were pupils from primary 6 to JHS 3. In all, 692 students in Ashanti Region have been reached with the Teenage Pregnancy campaign so far. Thanks to the German Embassy in Ghana for their generous financial support.

Welcoming the group from YMCA, Sula, the headmaster of the school said that such education had come at the right time since teenage pregnancy is a challenge in the school. He added, “One of the girls got pregnant during the previous academic year and had to write the B.E.C.E as an expectant mother”. Sula was full of praise to the team and asked for more of such programmes.



Gabriel Ofori Appiah, the Ashanti Regional Director of YMCA, said that the programme forms part of the YMCA Ghana’s agenda to prevent our school children from getting pregnant. He advised them to concentrate on their studies so that they can become useful citizens and contribute positively to their communities.



One of the pupils, who is the organizer of the Y-Club in the school, a victim of teenage pregnancy, could not hide her happiness as she incessantly asked questions just to elicit answers to the benefit of the other pupils. She regretted the incident but she confidently confided in me that she had been strengthened by the education and promised to educate the other girls by sharing her personal experience.

## Training of Peer Educators for the Teenage Pregnancy Campaign in Takoradi

The Western Region YMCA started their Teenage Pregnancy Campaign with the training of peer educators to become advocates in their various schools and communities. The training took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 at the Takoradi YMCA center, training 18 people together with six teachers and students as peer educators and coordinators from 6 different schools in 5 different circuits of the metropolis. These schools were carefully selected with the help of Ghana Education Service (GES) thus, schools located in areas prone or known to have recorded high rates of teenage pregnancies.



It was an educative, impactful and exciting time with the peer educators together with their teachers who represented for the two day training. Each day's training was designed to equip the peer educators with the necessary information on issues/topics related to teenage pregnancy all with strong emphasis on prevention and control of one's life towards a better future.



Representing as facilitators for the two day training were; Mr. Ebenezer Tawiah, the school's Health Education Program Coordinator from GES, Madam Henrietta Quabu, the Girl Child Coordinator, Josephine from Marie Stopes, Mrs Delphina Antwi and Mrs Phoebe Yankey from Ghana Health Service. Angela, a young person of CONSHIP Ghana who shared her personal

story with the peer educators was also part of the programme



## Greater Accra Regional YMCA Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Campaign

The Greater Accra Regional YMCA embarked on Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Campaign at the Bukom Square in Accra on the 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2018. It was on the theme “Talk Early, Talk Often, and Prevent Teenage Pregnancy”. It attracted participants from four (4) schools.



The goal was to provide comprehensive education that will help reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy. A medical doctor from the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Dr, Eugene Tettey, said teenage pregnancy could have devastating effect on the teenager, the family and society at large. He advised that students and pupils should invest their time in their education and things that would have a positive impact on their future.



## Volta Region YMCA Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Campaign

Teenage pregnancy prevention campaigns has been organized to create awareness and sensitize targeted boys and girls between ages 11 to 22 years in selected schools. The schools were Mawuko Girls S.H.S, Taviefe S.H.S, Phillip Akpo J.H.S, Anglican J.H.S, Methodist J.H.S, Mawuli J.H.S., E.P. Basic “A” J.H.S, Ho Kpodzi, all in the Ho Municipality of the Volta region.

The theme “**Lets Avoid Teenage Pregnancy**” was chosen for the campaign. The Ghana Education Service (GES), Ho Municipal Directorate supported the Ghana YMCA in the implementation of the project by providing authorization for the YMCA to organize the teenage pregnancy prevention campaign

in the schools. School officials, SHEP Coordinator of GES and students participants called for extension of the project to other schools and communities in the Volta Region due to the value they placed on the project.



## Partnership Visits

Partners from Germany came to Ghana YMCA to explore the possibilities about renewable energy in Ghana as well as the opportunities about setting up a plastic window factory by introducing the syllable into the Ghana YMCA Technical Training Centre.



## Greater Accra Regional YMCA in Partnership with Lagos YMCA



The Greater Accra YMCA (Ghana) and YMCA of Lagos (Nigeria) sealed up an agreement on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Ghana to enter into a partnership commencing from the year 2019. The aim is to share ideas on common programmes that will benefit the youth from the two YMCAs. Another notable feature of the partnership was how the two YMCAs can contribute to the improvement of membership in the sub region.

## November 2018

### Community Outreach in the Western Region



On 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 the Ghana YMCA, Western Region in partnership with Rescue Hour Ministry reached out to Shama Kumasi, a small farming community in the Western Region, with free health screening and reproductive health education – in light of ongoing teenage pregnancy prevention campaign.

The community center was made readily available by the chief and elders of the community who were very much excited about the outreach program. There was free medical screening for all who came to the community center that day. Necessary prescription and medication were provided for all who needed them by reason of the screening results.

It was a full day of community impact as Nana Peperah Antwi, a Change Agent and staff led the team of young and empowered Ghana YMCA volunteers and interns; joining forces with the Rescue Hour team of young health professionals and volunteers, led by Emmanuel Akumsigiya, a Physician Assistant of the Effia Nkwanta Regional Hospital to serve over 100 people in the community.



## Graduation for the Third Phase of YIEDIE Project at Ghana YMCA Technical Training Centre



The third phase of the Youth Inclusive Entrepreneurial Development Initiative for Employment (YIEDIE) Project came to an end on the 2nd November, 2018 at the Ghana YMCA Technical Training Centre. 370 beneficiaries who went through training to acquire skills to grow and start small businesses on their own were graduated and issued certificates.



*The pictures show samples of the production of the trained youth who were between the ages of 17 to 24 years.*



## Media Training Workshop

YMCA Ghana in partnership with WELTFILME.ORG, a German based nonprofit organization whose mission is to train and educate young people in countries of development cooperation in visual media production and to upgrade the skills of up-coming media producers, organized a free media training workshop for selected media people in Ghana for on-the-job training on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2018 at the Ghana YMCA Main hall.



The goal for the workshop was to train young aspiring film makers, film producers and journalists on how to use the media to address key questions particularly on how one can work against discrimination and to respect and include all marginalized groups in society. Also, to upgrade the skills of up-coming media producers to address social issues and effect change in their respective communities. The workshop was also organized to

sustain the use of YMCAs newly acquired film equipment and resource persons (trainers) to improve the quality of work of young film makers and producers as well as young journalists to help improve media reportage in Ghana.

The project was funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt).

## Free Film Workshop for Selected Media Personnel



A one day training workshop in Ghana YMCA for the media on “How to use film as a medium to achieve change” was organized on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 and 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. The workshop saw media personalities from both state-owned media houses and private media, taken through lessons on how to tell stories through film to achieve social change.

The programme was part of YMCA’s effort to contribute to the society by equipping young professionals in their field of work. This programme was a partnership with WELTFILME.ORG and funded by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt).

## DECEMBER 2018

### Workshop for Planning Programmes and Projects of Ghana YMCA for 2019

A three day workshop for planning Programmes and Project for 2019 came off from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 at YMCA Ghana headquarters for all Regional Directors as well as some key staff from the National office with the support of the German interns.

The period was used to evaluate and revise programmes implemented in 2018. This led to the decision on programmes to be maintained for the year 2019 and the ones that had to be ended.

A key part of the workshop focused on communication strategies for Ghana YMCA. A number of ideas on how to improve communication within the organization and how to increase our visibility in the country and the world was agreed on to be implemented in 2019.



### All on Board – Premiere of Six Short Films

After the training of 33 beneficiaries from Liberia, Ghana and Sierra Leone, they produced six short films. The films produced are; “UP IN ALMS, THIS ABILITY, ACCRA FLOWERS, XOESE, TRIBAL ZONE AND CARRYING DREAMS”. These movies were premiered to an excited audience at the National Head Office of Ghana YMCA on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2018. These films are a product of a project collaboration between WELTFILME.ORG, Ghana



YMCA and Xchange Perspectives, with financial support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and Bread for the World.



The film was aimed at raising awareness about the plight of marginalized groups in society. Three fictional films sought to highlight the plight of tribal minorities, teenage mothers, and ex-convicts, whereas the non-fictional films were based on street people, prostitutes and people with disability.

Following this premiere, the films have been shown across the country in a mobile cinema tour started from 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 and it was shown in the Eastern, Western, Ashanti, Central and Volta Regions.

