

'17

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2017



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### **Branch strengthening Training**

The regional offices of YMCA embarked on a *BRANCH STRENGTHENING TRAINING WORKSHOP*. CVJM and the National Council of YMCA Ghana holding this workshop gave their full support to the program. Therefore, two management staff meetings were held in January and July 2017. The January meeting looked at issues identified during the branch assessment exercise towards their strengthening. The meeting in July evaluated the progress made so far based on targets set in January 2017. The program was held to capture local branches.



In order to maintain a more structured and organized association, there is the need for all the branches to cooperate with their regional offices. Therefore, several leadership trainings were held in the regions and branches to strengthen their capacity.

### **Partnership with Bread for the World**

YMCA has received two persons on Secondment for the next three years with full payment of their perquisites by Bread for the World. They are Sarah Heinlin and Bernd Welte who will be handling Development Communication and ICT at the National Secretariat and YMCA TTC respectively.

### **S2C Programme**

Two volunteers and two staff has been part of this year's S2C programme organized by the World Alliance and Africa Alliance of YMCAs. They had a training in Kenya from 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017 and had further undertaken activities as part of their plan of work.

### **Visibility of Ghana YMCA**

We have redesigned our website to improve its capacity and also to be able to change the interface for our stakeholders.

To help improve our visibility, we have started an SMS advocacy project which is gradually picking up. Thus, one can subscribe to receive information on a range of developmental, civic action issues and Ghana YMCA activities, by sending **Y TO 3701 on MTN and VODAFONE**.

### **International Meetings and Programmes**

Ghana YMCA as a member of the Africa and World Alliance of YMCAs brings with it the need to be part of activities within these families. In February, 2017 two National General Secretary's meetings were held in Kenya from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> February and Tanzania from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February. Notable among the issues raised were the preparation for the World Council Meeting in Thailand in 2018, the issue of safe spaces for young people in all YMCAs as well as the minimum membership of 2000 registered members required of National Movements to be recognized as full members of the Africa Alliance of YMCAs from 2018.

The Western Regional Youth President, Maame Ama Ntsefuwa Josiah was selected to attend the International Youth Exchange Programme in Toronto, Canada from June 19, 2017 to July 21, 2017. This was a programme which exposes our youth to a lot of new activities.

An invitation was extended by Sierra Leone YMCA to the Executive Director to undertake a working visit from the 27<sup>th</sup> of July to the 4<sup>th</sup> of August, 2017 to learn and share the experiences from our two YMCAs.

The World Urban Network meeting took place from the 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2017 in Vancouver Canada. As a member of the Executive Committee of the WUN, the Executive Director was present at the meeting.

### **Day Care teachers' seminar**

The National Council of YMCA Ghana with support by CVJM organized a training workshop for a number of YMCAs who are running Day Care Centres. Participants were taken through managing Day Care children, and host of other trainings which benefited the participants immensely.

The regional office in Kumasi has focused on increasing the internally generated funds by putting different measurements in place. They increased the memberships by visiting more schools to introduce the Y Club. Furthermore, they put together attractive programs to attract more youth to join the club. They renovated the hall to make it more attractive to prospective clients, they have started a copy shop. And they have increased their advertisement of their programs through the various media platforms, especially social media.

### **Youth Empowerment Programme**

The regional office has introduced a monthly empowerment program for creative arts for youth in Kumasi. This program is to empower and introduce them to new trends in the industry and also introduce them to the Y-Club. Recently there was the Youth Empowerment program for selected fashion designers in Kumasi.



YMCA Ashanti/Ba partnered with Ahofa House, a fashion house that specializes in youth development, empowerment and skills training, and they held a workshop on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2017. Together, they held the personal development and fashion skills orientation for forty (40) selected youthful fashion designers. The designers were schooled on new trends

in the fashion industry and how they can adjust to make a great impact. They discussed the need to combine their practical skills with book knowledge so as to help advance their chosen career.

### **Land registration**

They have teamed up with the Regional Director to work on the indenture. After consultation with the Lands Department and the Juaben Traditional Council (the custodians of the Konongo YMCA land), we shall need GH 10,000(Ten Thousand Ghana Cedis) to complete the indenture registration. We received a remittance from CVJM Buschergrund to secure an indenture on the Konongo YMCA plot of land. Follow up is on-going to complete the documentation process.

## VOLTA REGION

The Volta Regional Council carried out a number of activities and programmes in 2017. Highlights of the activities were focused on local branch strengthening, and the regional youth conference.

### Visit of the Executive Director of AAYMCA to Volta Region

The Volta Regional Council of YMCAs was privileged to have Mr. Carlos Sanvee, the Executive Director of African Alliance of YMCAs (AAYMCA) visit the region on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> of May, 2017 which also marked the commencement of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the AAYMCAs



### Volta Regional Youth Conference



The first ever regional youth conference took place from Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> April, to 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2017 in the Hlefi YMCA Centre. Eighty-three (83) participants, young and old, male and female from Aflao, Ho

Central, Anfoeta Tsebi and the host branch Hlefi YMCA took part in all activities organized during the conference.



### Local branch election for branch strengthening in 2017



**New Leadership for Hlefi and Aflao YMCAs**

## International Youth Day (IYD)

Inasmuch as many of the Volta youth could not attend the national youth conference, there was the need to have some of them from local branches to participate in the National Youth Forum to mark 2017 International Youth Day (IYD). The programme was organized by Youth Empowerment Synergy (YES-Ghana) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Ghana Office, on the theme, **“Young people as partners in sustainable development”**. YMCA Volta’s participation in the forum was to offer our youth the opportunity to be part of global discussion on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## African YMCAs Youth Factbook Dissemination Seminar

African Alliance of YMCA and Ghana YMCA supported the Volta Regional Council to organize a one-day seminar on the Africa We Want, Agenda 2063. Furthermore, there were discussions on



the African YMCAs Youth Factbook Dissemination with young people from the YMCA and other youth organizations.



## Land Registration.

The registration of the Anfoeta-Tsebi and Regional Council lands is in the final stage to acquiring the title deed for both lands. This means that Ghana YMCA is in full possession of the lands.

## GREATER ACCRA

### EQWIP HUBS Tertiary Training Programme

The region through National’s partnership with EQWIP HUBS secured an opportunity to reach out to young people in the region with skill training in sustainable livelihoods.

EQWIP HUBS is a Powering Youth Innovation for Sustainable Livelihoods. The HUB creates an adaptive, accessible, youth-friendly space that brings together the training people and the need to access sustainable livelihoods. The training was primarily designed to equip young people including unemployed youth with relevant skills for sustainable livelihoods in specific areas such



as Personal Development, Financial Fitness, Work Habit & Conduct, Marketing, Digital Literacy, Leadership and Collaboration.

The region thus so far mobilized approximately 300 young people who received trainings in these areas during the last two weeks of March 2017.

### **Labatte Scholarship Project – YMCA of Greater Toronto**

The region had the opportunity to host three (3) staff from the YMCA of Greater Toronto for about three (3) weeks on a Labatte Scholarship Project to help the region's effort in developing unique, relevant and attractive program activities in Civic Engagement and Health & Fitness.

The team's visit was a great cultural exchange experience for both the travellers and the Ghanaian team. Aside the exchange of cultural perspectives, the team supported the initiative to develop a complete curriculum for the Y-Club civic engagement programme and an adjoining set of practical activities in health and fitness that would deliver a wholesomely impactful programme.

### **Health & Fitness Programme**

The region initiated health & fitness programmes prior to the 2017 National Youth Conference which is gradually gathering members from all 8 branches. The programme comes off every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month and has witnessed three (3) sessions so far. The programme comes with side attractions like volleyball and soccer. Participants are refreshed after each session.

### **YMCA 4H Youth Garden Project**

The 4-H YMCA Youth Garden (Farm) Project is an initiative of the 4-H Centre at the Ohio State University (OSU) designed in the spirit of the current sister city relationship between Accra, Ghana and Columbus Ohio, USA. 4-H is a community of schools and universities that provide experiences where young people learn by doing.

The project under this partnership seeks to mobilize young people and involve them in the creation of gardens in urban areas and schools primarily. They will be sited at two locations, Accra and Tema specifically at the Y centres in Accra and Sebrepor and the Achimota School.





As part of the project, two young people between the ages of 14 – 18 years selected from the region, **Fame Makafui Nissi-Brown** and **Emelia Naa Addai Ashiley**, participated in a program designed to build cultural awareness and competency towards addressing the issues of climate change and food security both locally and globally. The visit was an innovative and dynamic exchange to heighten awareness of climate change in various communities, promote a more food secure and economically inclusive environment for distressed cities, and ensure that both Ohio's and Ghana's youth are globally-focused and culturally aware citizens. In respect of the garden, part of the land at the Headquarters have been secured with arrangement currently underway to kick start the garden.

## EASTERN REGION

### Regional Youth Games

The Eastern Regional Council organized Regional Youth games in July 2017. These games were organized as a result of meeting with the youth in a think tank discussion about the branch strengthening. A total of 70 young people participated in this program.

Games such as football, Table Tennis, Volley ball, Musical chairs were the games that were played. The youth games will be an annual program of the Eastern Regional Y.M.C.A.

### Interns

Four young people, two ladies and two gentlemen are in the country to serve as interns at Koforidua and Mpraeso respectively. They are Kira, Stefanie, Nil and Sebastian.



### Conference hall refurbishment

The Regional Secretariat from her local resources have been able to face lift the conference hall. The leakage of the hall has been dealt with, new louvre blades and frames has been fixed.

### **Eckard Geisler (CVJM Westbund) visits Western Regional YMCA Centre**

The Western Regional Council of the Ghana YMCAs over the last quarters has received financial support for CVJM Schnathorst Tengern to support the operation of the Vocational Training Centre operated by the YMCA in the region. This support has been of immense help to the Centre in making it more attractive and more equipped to better serve young people who come to the Centre for training.

Eckard Geisler, the International Relations Secretary of CVJM paid a working visit to the region on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The purpose of his visit was to interact with the leaders of the Centre concerning a



prospective internship program for young Germans and also to observe the progress made so far on the ground with the support received from CVJM.

### **Takoradi YMCA Vocational Training Institute Hi Y**

The Acting Regional Director visited the YMCA Vocational Institute Hi Y which has been dormant, to orient existing members and to recruit new



members. The meeting recorded an encouraging turn out of about 20 members (both old and new). Before the end of



the second academic term, the newly elected leaders of the Takoradi YMCA VTI Hi Y, in collaboration with the Regional Secretariat organized a Keep Fit and Clean Up event on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at the school premises. It was fun and physically profiting as participants were led through a series of keeping fit exercise and a dancing chairs competition and then the clean-up exercise. This was crown with a refreshing and socializing moment of the Hi Y members with the Regional Representatives who were present to support and be part of the activity.

## **Takoradi Branch**

The 1<sup>st</sup> visit with the Takoradi branch members was on the 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2017. Present at this meeting were 13 youth members of the branch. The state of the Takoradi branch was addressed and the need for a revamp of the branch's activities. The need for thorough orientation of the branch was also discussed as well as the registration of all members of the branch. The issue of leadership and the need for election was also discussed. The next meeting was held at the Takoradi YMCA Centre on the 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2017.



## **Land Registration and Documentation**

The registration process of the Takoradi YMCA land started three years ago. The office is now awaiting the offer of a new lease from the Lands Commission after their next regional lands meeting.

## **Change Agents Programme**

The YMCA Change Agent Programme is an international leadership development programme to empower young YMCA leaders and grow their ability to be the change, communicate the vision of the movement and to inspire action within the movement, with special emphasis on local associations. Nana Peperah Antwi, Acting Western Regional Director, has been selected as one of the change agents (2017/2018 cohort) from the Ghana YMCA.

## **VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE TAKORADI**

The Institute offers courses in Dressmaking, Tailoring, Cookery, Batik Tie Dye and Cake Decoration. The duration of all courses is 3 years with an additional 1 year for all who seek to have GES Certificate II. Cake Decoration and Batik Tie Dye are six months on a strict proficiency level.

Acknowledging the support which the Centre received from CVJM Schnathorst Tengern, facilities like the washroom and school block were refurbished, giving the whole environment a face lift. This reflected keenly in the 2016/2017 academic year admissions with a record of 40 first years compared to previous years which recorded admissions as low as 15 first. The number of trainees for the first half of 2017 was 85. The drop outs in our sector is a result of

student inability to pay fees and afford learning materials particularly in the area of practical work.



As a requirement of the National VTI, trainees after their three years of practical training would be attached to an industry to have hands-on practical experience for the period of 12 weeks. Therefore, the institute has liaised with some industries within the metropolis and beyond to place students in their catering or dress making departments for the students to undertake this special program in their companies. Follow ups made on our trainees placed in these industries prove that attaches from the YMCA Vocational Training Institute are always the best and that the department heads of these industries do give them high recommendations.

The VTI this year organized a certification and exhibition day event to celebrate the successful completion of 23 trainees.

During the event, there was a spectacular showcase of some artifacts including wedding dresses made by the trainees.



Some of the students; past and graduating, were given opportunity to share their experiences undergoing training in the YMCA. There were beautiful performances by the school choir and the Hi Y choreography team of the school. The event was gracefully climaxed with the presentation of certificates and the exhibition tour. Four (4) of the trainees who sat for the GES certificate II examination have gained admission to pursue 3 year HND programmes in the Takoradi Technical University for the 2017/2018 academic year.



## TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTRE (TTC) ACCRA

The Ghana YMCA Technical Training Centre offers skills training to Ghanaian Youth who did not further their education to the Senior High School, but instead want to acquire technical skills. Preferably skills which lead to self-employment are what they offer as an institution as well.

### STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Years	Blocklaying	Draughtmanship	Electrical Installation Work	Wood	Total
1 <sup>ST</sup>	5	7	17	4	
2 <sup>ND</sup>	5	10	19	2	
3 <sup>RD</sup>	5	4	12	1	
Total	15	21	48	7	91

### Partnership with Global Communities Ghana



On the significant date of June 6<sup>th</sup> for YMCAs all over the world, Ghana YMCA and Global Communities Ghana signed an agreement for five years for training of young people in 16 Construction models as part of their **Youth Inclusive Entrepreneurial Development Initiative for Employment (YIEDIE)** Project. The project seeks to provide six (6) months of intensive training for young people between the ages of 17-24 years. So far, the evaluation conducted by Global Communities Ghana for the training of 298 young people in 2016 was very successful. This has led to the signing of a new agreement for 2017 where the number of youth to be trained was increased to 370. These 370 have successfully gone through their training and the graduation ceremony was organized for them on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2017. Training was offered in 16 selected skill areas, which are Masonry, Draughtsmanship, P.O.P design, Electrical technician, Tiling, Painting, Plumbing, Fiberglass and aluminium fabrication, Metal fabrication, Survey technical assistance, Carpentry, Interior décor, Filing station canopy fabrication, Road signal installing, Machine operation and Steel bending.



In as much as the Technical School has gained some success, the school is facing some challenges. The major problem the school is facing is the inability of students settling their



school fees. This has been necessitated by the type of students they admit, about 80% of these boys are from poor homes whose parents are not able to support them through the course. Furthermore the TTC faces challenges with enrollment of students. The school has come to the realization that it has to meet up to existing trend in globalization. Careful analysis made shows that some students needs short courses to upgrade or have a basic skill stressing, these will intend support the budget and also keep the school running. Plans are underway to introduce short courses to meet the demand. These are Auto Spraying, Aluminium Fabrication and Auto Electronics.



We are very grateful and hopefully this relationship between YMCA of Germany (AKTION HOFFNUNGSZEICHEN) and YMCA Accra Technical Training Centre would be strengthened to help Ghanaian Youth to develop their skills and talents to help the future economy of Ghana.

## YOUTH CONFERENCE 2017

The National Youth Conference was held from 9th to 13th August, 2017 in Accra at the Methodist University College, Dansoman. This year's Annual National Youth Conference came off with the topic **"The Africa we want: Agenda 2063"**. The UNDP Country Director delivered the keynote address with special emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals with a link to the Africa We Want, Agenda 2016.



The conference brought together over 140 young people from 5 administrative regions across Ghana and Korea, to share their experiences, to learn from one another and to debate the future development of intergenerational work towards the realization of AGENDA 2063 for Africa. The conference was structured around small, facilitated workshops and presentations to allow all participants to enter into practical discussion.

It also helped to look beneath the surface of intergenerational programming to explore its underpinnings and to learn from the diversity of experience that participants brought to the conference.

The conference was attended by a wide range of participants in intergenerational practice: researchers, practitioners, educators, health promoters, community activists and others interested in incorporating intergenerational approaches into their work and policies.

The first day was designated as the official arrival day for all participants. On the second day the participants were transported after morning devotion to Sajuna Beach Resort for fun games. To some, it was their first-time experience to that part of the country. Breakfast was served in the bus while on the journey. The following games were designed by the games and excursion committee for participation. The entire day was spent at Sajuna Beach Resort.



On the third day was the official opening ceremony with some speeches delivered during the opening. That includes the welcome address by the Greater Accra Regional Chairman, the speech by the National President of Ghana YMCA, that of the Executive Director of Ghana YMCA, National Youth President of Ghana YMCA and last but not least the keynote address by the UNDP country Director.

Two workshop sessions were held for participants after the opening ceremony. The workshops were championed by EQWIP HUBS, Ghana on the four key topics and the second workshop was facilitated by Prof. E.L.K Osafo on career guidance.





The programme for the fourth day included activities like Games (Soccer, Volley and Aerobics), a Talents /Gospel Rock show and Inter-Regional Quiz Competition.

With the exception of some logistical challenges, the conference was well attended with a couple of new programmes introduced such as the Quiz Competition.

Feedback from the conference was very positive – participants greatly enjoyed the chance to meet like-minded people from different parts of the country, the opportunity to network and to learn from one another, and the chance to explore ideas.

We look forward to a similar successful one in the Eastern Region in 2018.

## CHALLENGES

The registration of Ghana YMCA properties continues to present challenges to the Movement. Our Day Care Center at Antem, in Cape Coast in the Central Region is posing one such problem, for example. The family that gave the land to YMCA through Adisadel College has sold our property to a business woman. We are currently trying to lay hands on any document we have available to be able to challenge this issue. The only little hope is that the said buyer of the property, has requested to meet Ghana YMCA which is shows that, the buyer is aware we are the original owners.

Due to the branch strengthening exercise, some of the branches have not being renewed as a result of the arrangements made by their Regions with them. Other Regions also have only a few branches renewing their members. This doesn't augur well for us especially in the face of the request by the AAYMCA for every National Movement to provide details of a 1000 paid up registered members per National Movement from 2018.

## COMING UP

**WeltFilme – All on Board**, a German NGO, seeks to facilitate, enable and strengthen a self-sustaining network of young media producers and film trainers in West Africa. Through this, they will partner with the YMCA to train young people from Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ghana in March 2018. Depending on the success of the project, it would be extended for two more years.

The **World Alliance of YMCAs (WAY)** is in collaboration with the UN and a leading media organisation to bring the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the world's young people. They are preparing to produce an ongoing poll of young people where we can hear their voices on timely topics. National Movements would be asked to resource a group of young people to participate in the polls on a quarterly basis. They are seeking for a group of 1,000 young people per country, with diversity of backgrounds. Ghana YMCA has committed to take part in this project as it is similar to the One Million Voices project undertaken by the World Alliance of YMCAs.

# YMCA Ghana

## HEADQUARTER ACCRA

## REGIONAL OFFICES

Greater Accra  
Eastern Region, Koforidua  
Western Region, Takoradi  
Ashanti Region, Kumasi  
Volta Region, Ho

## Facilities

## VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Technical Training Center Accra  
Vocational Training Institute Takoradi

## DAY CARE CENTERS

## SCHOOL

### Eastern Region

Donkorkrom  
Jumapo  
Asamankese  
Nnudu

YMCA Mpraeso Junior High School

### Volta Region

Hlefi  
Anfoeta Tsebi  
Tsyome Apfedo

### Ashanti/Brong Ahafo Region

Konongo  
Morso  
Wawase  
Bassa

# **YMCA Ghana**

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