

Shared vision and a common mission

Working paper of the evaluation of the partnership work of the YMCA Ghana, Sierra Leone and the CVJM-Westbund e. V. 2022–2024

Fundamentals of our partnership

We as the YMCA Ghana, YMCA Sierra Leone and the CVJM-Westbund e. V. have enjoyed a cordial working partnership over so many years. However, we are aware of the colonial mindset of the past, which still has an impact on our YMCA partnership today. We want to work to overcome it by the following understanding:

1. It is not a master and servant relationship nor a donor and recipient relationship but rather it is out of Gods blessings and love for our young people and the communities we work.
2. We should always ensure that we see ourselves as equal partners with a shared vision and a common mission.
3. The opportunities and experience of all three partners are recognized equally and made available to each other.

The YMCA Ghana, YMCA Sierra Leone and the CVJM-Westbund e. V. view partnership as a mutual relationship between the three YMCAs working towards supporting young people and extension Gods kingdom through transforming lives of young people and their communities. It is a relationship that reflects and collectively agrees to deliver on our mission with impact on all sides. Our partnership aims to ensure that there is an equal opportunity to participate in the programs and projects of the partnership work.

Ways of working

Embed our international partnership into our understanding of YMCA and working structures.

We as the involved partners emphasize the passion for international partnership for all involved, including leadership, staff, and volunteers. This means we encourage and include the initiative-taking exchange of ideas, feedback, and resource into it.

Roll out 2024 partnership agreement and then at some point stop and review to ensure the keep, drop and create philosophy.

Hold Quarterly update sharing and learning sessions to be rotationally hosted by all three partners (Permanent group members are the full-time staff of the YMCA partners who are responsible for this evaluation; the group can be expanded as required and desired).

We are open to adapting the partnership structure based on changing circumstances.

Sharing Resources and Expertise, so everyone can benefit, and institutional strengthening and capacity building is possible. The role of leadership: Networking and sharing of expertise and resources.

In the realization of these goals, the Vision 2030 of the World Alliance is included and thus it is also made clear that we are working on a common vision with the respective possibilities.

We support each other in the realization of these visions and the common goal of partnership with the means at our disposal. By pooling our potential, we become stronger and more resilient for our work on the ground.

Open and transparent communication is crucial to address issues promptly and foster a healthy working relationship.

Define clear roles and responsibilities for each partner.

On the path of our common work

The impact of the partnership should benefit as many people as possible, which excludes forms of partnership that are personalized and exclusive.

All (local to local) partnerships must respect and be accountable to the broader YMCA structures. We are working together on formats that enable equal participation and strengthening of all local branches.

Young People who form the basis of our existence as a youth serving organization must be a strong pillar and reason for our existence.

Empowering young people as leaders and community transformers should be at the center of our mission. Youth Power Space should be focused to invest in with leadership and Programmatic focus. Putting Young people at the Driver seat MUST be deliberate and the only way to go.

Need to build and invest in the next generation of YMCA/CVJM Leaders.

All partners must invest and create space for young people to deliver on their God given talents. This can be done through leadership training as well as exchange visits and links with each other.

More resources for an example project ideas and concepts to be allocated / shared and used for youth empowerment programs.

Develop tangible and physical spaces like youth centers, where young people can meet, dialogue, and explore new possibilities.

Ideas, designs, and other considerations are developed and agreed with each other in the implementation and strategy plans. These results are added to the working paper as an attachment.

March 2024

Attachment (March 2024)

Ideas and projects already being considered February 2024:

- Sharing of programs and documents that is needed by all parties.
- Encouraging exchanges between young people at various levels.
- Trilateral partnership for resource mobilization for bigger projects, Programmatical focus on the SDGs/Vision2030.
- Youth Exchange programs on all sides (Already there is Germany – Ghana Exchange program. We should also have Ghana to Germany, Sierra Leone to Ghana, Ghana to Sierra Leone, Germany to Sierra Leone, Sierra Leone to Germany).
- Staff and volunteer exchange programs to strengthen partnerships and broaden horizons.
- The executive boards of YMCA Ghana, Sierra Leone and Westbund meet regularly to discuss cross-cutting issues and cultivate spiritual fellowship.
- Involve the German National YMCA and the Africa Alliance into the partnership journey.
- Physical rotational meetings for all three partners with a view of visiting project locations and conducting training for members and staff.