



**YOUTH
JUSTICE III
PROJECT**

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NEWSLETTER**



(0) 302 224 700



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47 Castle Road
Accra

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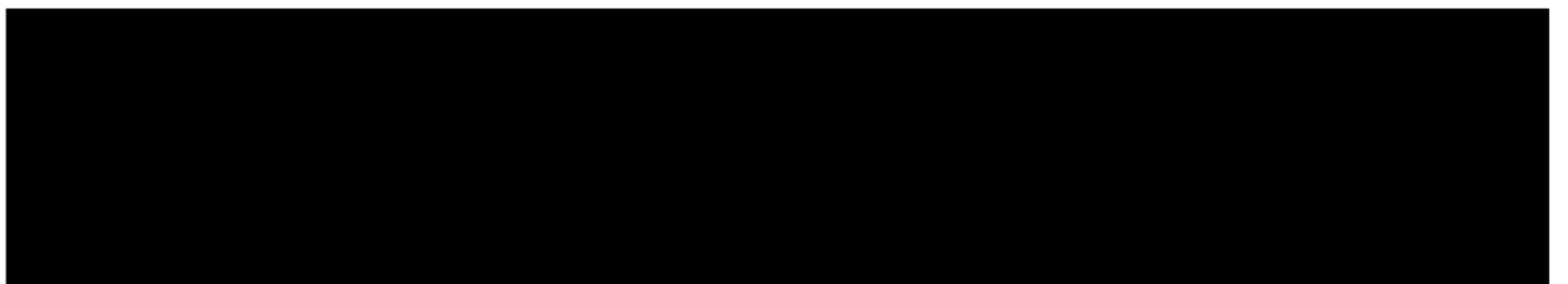
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YOUTH JUSTICE III TEAM TRAINED IN PROVIDING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



Dr Daniel Adjei, Pantang Hospital

As part of the Youth Justice III Project, Ghana YMCA held a three-day psychosocial intervention workshop for the team implementing the project at the Eastern Regional YMCA Centre at Koforidua.

The trained participants included the national project team, Ghana YMCA's Regional Directors as well as regional project volunteers from the various project regions i.e. Volta Region, Ashanti Region, Eastern Region, Greater Accra Region and Western Region. The workshop was aimed at

building the capacity of the participants to effectively diagnose psychosocial issues and provide adequate support in their engagement with the project's target beneficiaries.

Five mental health practitioners, Dr. Daniel Adjei from Pantang Hospital, Dr. Abigail Harding and Dr. Richard Dei-Asamoah both from the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Dr. Ramata Seidu and Dr. Josephine Stiles Darko both from Accra Psychiatric Hospital took turns to facilitate sessions that deepened the team's understanding of mental health issues and their remedies.

During the first session of the workshop, Dr. Adjei briefed the participants on the overview of psychosocial issues among young people in Ghana. He explained how the effects and stigma of juvenile offences transcend the youths involved to include their family and community.

In the subsequent days of the workshop, Dr. Josephine Darko facilitated a session on depression and anxiety among young people, Dr. Ramata Seidu facilitated a session on intellectual disability and conduct disorder, Dr. Richard Dei-Asamoah took participants through

practical approaches to offering psychosocial support while Dr. Abigail Harding talked about addiction to substances and gambling.

Following the conclusion of the workshop, Dr. Seidu noted that the training was relevant to the Youth Justice III project because majority of juveniles have underlying mental health issues that deserve urgent attention. "If we look at the young offenders, 90-95% of them is as a result of an underlying mental health condition. So this training is very relevant to the Youth Justice III project because lacking this knowledge would

YOUTH JUSTICE III TEAM TRAINED IN PROVIDING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT ..cont'd from p2



just lead to further incarcerations of these young people. This training scales you up professionally for the project in a more tailored way," she disclosed.

The Volta Regional Director of the Ghana YMCA, Mr. Matthew Amuzu stated that the training has enlightened him on the complexities of diagnosing mental health issues among young people and providing the necessary psychosocial support. "I'm very happy to be at this workshop because I have learnt a lot. As a matter of fact, I have realised that we have a lot to do with regards to providing psychosocial support to young people who are in conflict with the law. When integrating people back into society, we have to go through this psychosocial support by guiding them and helping them to understand that they can still have that resilience to be in the communities and

become whoever they want to be in the future," he stated.

The Psychosocial Intervention Workshop was the final activity in a very hectic and impactful year of implementing the youth justice project across four regions in Ghana. Throughout the year, the project actively engaged stakeholders and built their capacity to enable them to provide better service for juveniles. The project also supported dozens of young ex-detainees to reintegrate into society by providing livelihood support, psychosocial support and academic scholarships.

The Youth Justice III Project is being implemented in partnership with the YMCA-YWCA of Sweden with funding from Swedish Mission Council (SMC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency



(SIDA). The Youth Justice III Project is an initiative aimed at promoting active citizenship through strengthening the resilience of young people in conflict with the law, young people at the risk with the law and young ex-detainees.

GHANA YMCA ORGANIZES 3-DAY CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR PROBATION OFFICERS

As part of the Youth Justice III Project, the Ghana YMCA in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection's Department of Social Welfare has organized a three-day capacity building workshop for Probation Officers on the Probation Desk Manual.

The Probation Desk Manual is a legislative framework that provides new guidance and instruction on how probation officers should perform their roles in the best interest of children who come into conflict with the law. The new manual was developed by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) after reviewing an older edition published in 1997, which did not incorporate any of the child's right in the manual.

The probation officers in Ghana play a critical role in the criminal justice system to assess and support juvenile and young offenders in their rehabilitation through pre-sentence assessment, supervision and reintegration.

Key probation officers from Ashaiman, Tema, Ada West, Ga West, La Dadaekotopon Municipal Assembly (LADMA), Ledzokoku-Krowor Municipal Assembly (LEKMA), Shai Osudoku, Weija Gbawe were in attendance at the workshop which was aimed at providing new guidance and instruction on the best practices for probation officers in terms of engaging with young people when performing their functions.

The probation officers underwent an in-depth training on key modules such as professional responsibility of the probation officer, an understanding of



the system for child justice, and the child and their mental health. The probation officers were also trained in the delivery of psychosocial support in order to understand the behavioural characteristics of young people and become equipped to engage with young people in contact and in conflict with the law.

Deputy Director in charge of Justice Administration at the Department of Social Welfare, Frederica Owuani disclosed that the workshop will have a positive impact on service delivery for young people, especially in terms of how probation officers handle juveniles and contribute to their reformation.

“Probation Service is a specialized service that is rendered to the children through the court. If the probation officers are not equipped with the necessary training, they will be doing their work alright but they may not be doing all that is expected of them. And in the aspect of the children, it will help the officers to give better recommendations and present better reports in court. This is because we have trained them on how to write a good report. Their approach to reforming and handling these children will be better,” she stated.

The officers who participated in the workshop also revealed that the workshop was timely

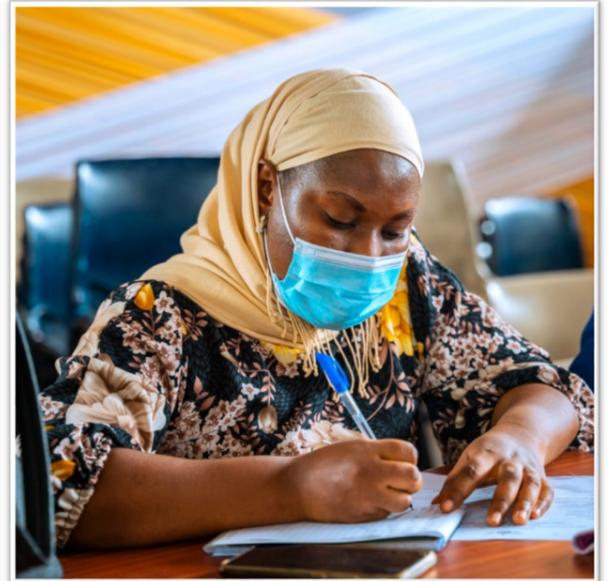
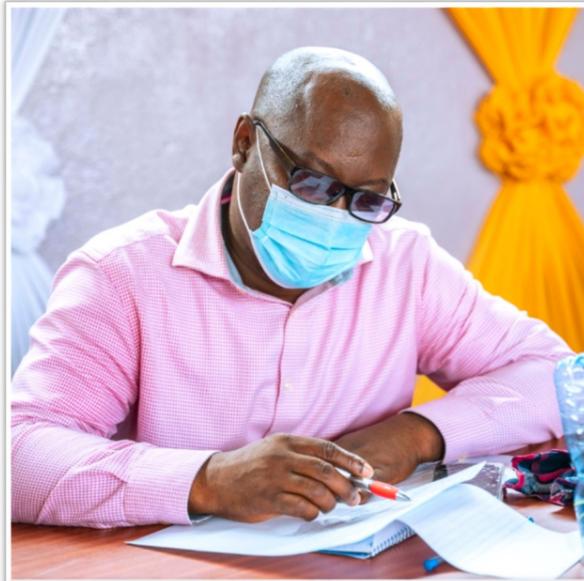
GHANA YMCA ORGANIZES 3-DAY CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR PROBATION OFFICERS

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and would greatly improve their work. A Senior Social Development Officer at LADMA, Bubugali Timothy Annan also said that, “the training came at the right time because it had a lot of activities which underline the daily duties we execute at work.”

At the closing ceremony, Programmes Director of the Ghana YMCA, Mr Samuel Asamoah, expressed gratitude to the Probation Officers for availing themselves to learn and improve service delivery for the young people with whom they engage. He also commended the facilitators of the workshop for agreeing to train them. All the participants were then awarded with a certificate of participation.

This workshop was organized as part of the Ghana YMCA’s Youth Justice III Project which is being implemented in partnership with the YWCA-YMCA of Sweden with funding from Swedish Mission Council (SMC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The project is aimed at promoting active citizenship through strengthening the resilience of young people in conflict with the law, young people at risk of offending the law and young ex-detainees.



Frederica Owuani, Director of Justice, DSW



GHANA YMCA SUPPORTS SENIOR CORRECTIONAL CENTRE, JUNIOR GIRLS CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

As part of the efforts of the Youth Justice III Project to strengthen the resilience of young people in conflict with the law, Ghana YMCA has provided Ghana's Senior Correctional Centre and the Junior Girls Correctional Centre with COVID-19 material support, nutritional support, hygiene support and capacity building support. The Junior Girls Correctional Centre also serves as a Shelter for Abused Children and a Boys' Remand Home.

The donated items included bags of rice, beans, gari (cassava flour), and maize; gallons of cooking oil, drinks and biscuits; face masks, sanitizers, detergents, bleach, tooth brush, tooth paste, first aid kits and others to the inmates of the Centre.

Beyond the food and hygiene items, the Junior Girls Correctional Centre also received boxes of sanitary pads, sewing machines, sewing accessories and fabrics.

Cynthia Asamoah, who received the items on behalf of the manageress of the Junior Girls Correctional Centre, Gifty Tekpor, expressed gratitude to the Ghana YMCA for providing the items at a time the centre badly needed them. "Thank you for remembering us. What you brought

to us is exactly what we needed because this morning we realized that we did not have some of the supplies we need. I Believe God spoke to you to bring us exactly what we need. We are not widely known like the Senior Correctional Centre so please visit us again," she stated.

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GALLERY — GHANA YMCA SUPPORTS CORRECTIONAL CENTRES



GHANA YMCA INAUGURATES ADVISORY TEAMS FOR YOUTH JUSTICE III PROJECT



As part of the Youth Justice III Project, Ghana YMCA has assembled multi-stakeholder advisory teams in the project regions to provide strategic guidance on the implementation of the project over the next three years. The advisory teams were inaugurated in Ashanti Region, Eastern Region and the Volta Region.

The advisory teams generally comprised Department of Social Welfare Officer (DSW) officers, Court registrars, traditional rulers, police officers, professional teachers, professional paralegals, community leaders, religious leaders, retired prison officers, regional officers of the National Youth Authority, a YMCA Youth Leaders, officers from relevant non-governmental organisations (NGO). With a wide range of experiences and expertise, the mandate of the advisory team shall be to offer guidance on how the Youth Justice regional project teams

engage young people based on the local contexts and offer recommendations for developing activities that seek to build relationships with the project's target beneficiaries.

In each region, the advisory team were briefed on the structure and objectives of the Youth Justice III Project. The team was also trained on how to offer mental health and psychological support to young people and how to manage gender-based violence amongst youth.

Programme Innovation and Management Executive of the African Alliance of YMCAs, Lloyd Muriuki, who was present at the inauguration of the Ashanti Regional advisory disclosed that the he was optimistic the advisory team would add great value to the project. "The stakeholder session was a very valuable and useful activity. It led to the development of a working group of stakeholders who are concerned with the local realities within the region and who develop integrated

approaches in favour of youth in conflict with, or at risk of being in conflict with the law. We hope that in future, the Stakeholders shall incorporate the very vital voices – the youth in conflict with the law themselves (or those in active rehabilitation or no longer at risk) as they provide valuable insights and experience."

Mr Muriuki added that the YMCA continues to benefit from such engagements, many of which engage partners who are not traditionally known or engaged with the YMCA and thanked the Ghana YMCA for the opportunity to witness from the wealth of the movement.

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GHANA YMCA SUPPORTS ACCRA REHAB CENTRE WITH FOOD ITEMS

The Ghana YMCA has presented the Accra Rehabilitation Centre with various food items and toiletries to support the centre's mandate of providing rehabilitation and empowerment for its physically challenged students.

This donation was part of the Ghana YMCA's Youth Justice III Project which seeks to promote active citizenship through strengthening the resilience of young people in conflict with the law, young people at risk of offending the law and young ex-detainees. The donated items included bags of rice, cooking oil, tomato puree, drinking water, soft drinks and some toiletries.

The presentation was made on behalf of the organization by a Ghana YMCA delegation led by the Programmes Director, Mr. Samuel Asamoah and the Administrative and Human Resource Coordinator, Veronica Ampofoah Nanor.

Following this donation, students of the Accra Rehabilitation Centre who were trained in the Ghana YMCA's skill training program for vulnerable youth will receive micro loans from the Ghana YMCA to invest in their business.

Linda, a student of the Accra Rehabilitation centre and also a beneficiary of the training, thanked the Ghana YMCA delegation on behalf of the Centre and



assured the team that the micro loans shall be put to diligent use. "I have learnt how to save and invest money and I am ready to work hard and save for my future," she stated.

Daniel, a teacher of the institution mentioned that students of the centre need more of such training and that the YMCA should visit the centre more often to educate, train, and provide inspiration for the students.

Located at Adabraka, the Accra Rehabilitation Centre is a vocational training rehabilitation centre for persons living with disability. The centre runs vocational courses in visual arts, leather work, masonry, carpentry,



cosmetology, tailoring, needle work and rural craft to provide trainees with employable skills to enable them to become financially independent.

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partnership with the YMCA/YWCA of Sweden with funding from Swedish Mission Council (SMC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

GHANA YMCA TRAINS 23 YOUNG FILMMAKERS



trained in the areas of Writing & Directing for Fiction, Writing & Directing for Documentary, Cinematography & Editing, Producing, and Media for Peace.

Divided into two groups, the participants used the knowledge and skill acquired at the end of the training to produce a ten-minute documentary film and a ten-minute fiction film.

With workshops already organized in Tamale and Koforidua by the Ghana YMCA and its partner Bread for the World, this training was the last of filmmaking workshops for the year.

Since 2018, the Ghana YMCA and its partners have consistently organized annual filmmaking training across the country which brings together young people from Ghana and other West African countries to tell powerful African stories that foster social development. The filmmaking project is carefully designed to inspire the creativity and empower young filmmakers to learn, network, grow and collaborate on film productions.

Beyond the training, participants are also given access to Ghana YMCA's fully furnished Media Hub Education Centre (MHEC), where they can visit any time to further practise using the equipment available at the Hub and also receive mentorship from the project's filmmaking trainers. The participants are also at liberty to borrow equipment from the Hub for their personal productions.

The 2021-2022 project which is dubbed Resilient Africa is being implemented with the kind partnership of Bread for the World and WELTFLME.org.



As part of the Resilient Africa Film Project, twenty-three young people in Accra were selected to receive practical, intensive filmmaking training at the Ghana YMCA's Media Hub Education Centre (MHEC) between 15th and 20th November 2021.

During the 6-day non-residential training, the participants were



MEDIA HUB TRAINEES TRAINED IN FILMS FOR PEACE

Two aspiring trainers of the Ghana YMCA's Media Hub Education Centre (MHEC), Ohene Francisca Ohenewaa and Mercy Aba Blankson have been trained by the YWCA-YMCA Sweden in a special digital course on the power of film to promote peace.

The course dubbed, "This Is How Youth Create Peace: A Film Course To Create Change In Your Society," was designed to provide the participants with skills in video production while sensitising them on a broader objective of using film and videos to cause societal change and sustainable development.

The content of the course was underpinned by the UN's Agenda

2030 and the advocacy work on the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2255 on Youth, Peace and Security. All the young participants produced great videos around the theme of Youth, Peace and Security by interviewing people they were partnered with for the assignment.

Through four separate meetings held between October and November 2021, participants learned about film editing, and using film as a method of influence to spread one's message to others. The training featured young people from Sweden and YWCA-YMCA of Sweden's international partners, creating an international platform of participants from Ghana, Ukraine, South Africa, Madagascar, Senegal and Palestine. Participants were also provided with license to Adobe Premier Pro to enable them to

further practise following the completion of the workshop.

Speaking to Mercy Aba Blankson, one of the selected participants from the Ghana YMCA, she expressed her joy for the opportunity and how the training has helped her increase her skill set. "Initially I wasn't very excited about the digital course but when I read about it and the training commenced, I learnt a lot and began to enjoy the sessions. Even though I have attended filmmaking workshops organized by Ghana YMCA and its partners, I always specialized in writing and directing films. I never saw myself doing any technical stuff like video editing. But after the training I can proudly say that I know how to use Adobe Premier Pro to edit videos. I have also broadened my knowledge on Youth, Peace and Security," she disclosed.



Mercy Aba Blankson



L: Francisca Ohenewaa Ohene

GHANA YMCA CHANGE AGENT CALLS FOR MORE CLIMATE EFFORT AT COP26

The Ghana YMCA's Change Agent, Cedric Dzelu, has urged the world to do more towards climate change as he delivered the World YMCA's keynote address at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly referred to as COP26 held in Glasgow, Scotland.

In front of an audience of world leaders, business leaders, youth leaders and advocates inside the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Cedric's speech called on the world to wake up to the menace of climate change, encouraged persons and organisations to take action, while stating the YMCA's readiness to partner with viable organisation to create sustainable solutions to

For nearly three decades, the United Nations (UN) has been bringing together almost every country on earth for global climate summits, the Conference of the Parties, more commonly referred to as COP. This year's edition was the 26th annual summit, hence COP26.

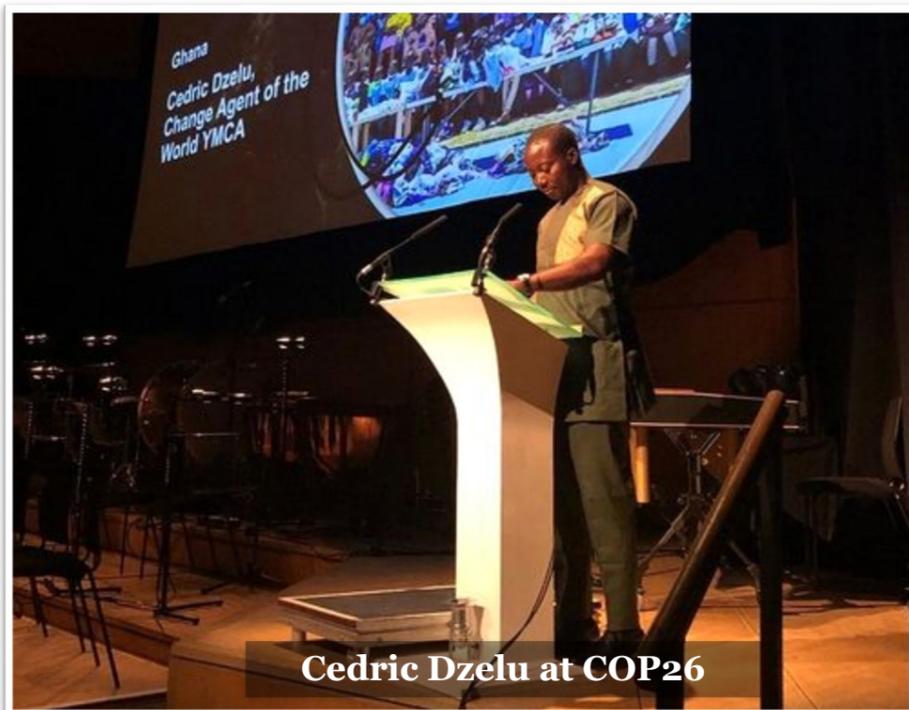
Since Cedric returned home, he has been actively

raising awareness about the climate change crisis and encouraging young people to become more involved in the effort to save the planet. Most recently he was a Guest Speaker at a workshop dubbed Save The Environment Project (STEP) organised by the Ghana YMCA's Subject to Citizen (S2C) Ambassadors to discuss what actions

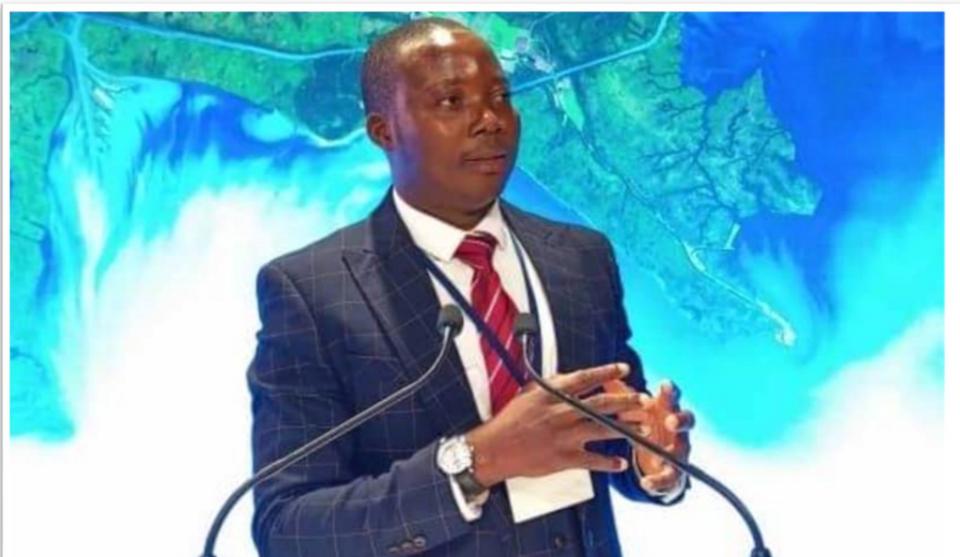
young people can take to prevent climate change.

In 2022, he shall be working with African Youth Commission as a contact person to implement the Power of Voices project which seeks to raise awareness about climate change across select countries in Africa and encourage youth-led solutions towards climate change.

Cedric was part of the first cohort of the Africa Alliance of YMCAs' S2C programme and subsequently served as the Ghana YMCA's Change through his leadership capacity was developed immensely. We all at the Ghana YMCA are proud of him and celebrate him as he continues to affirm that there is Power in the Youth Voice.



Cedric Dzelu at COP26



INTRODUCING THE GHANA YMCA'S S2C AMBASSADORS: ABA & OHENEWA



Aba Dodoo, Ghana YMCA National Youth Organiser



Francisca Ohenewa, Ghana YMCA National Youth Secretary

Following a rigorous process of vetting tens of applications, the Ghana YMCA is delighted to announce its ambassadors for the fifth cohort of the Africa Alliance of YMCA's Subject to Citizen (S2C) Programme – Aba Dodoo and Francisca Ohenewa Ohene.

Both Aba and Ohenewa are National Youth Leaders of the Ghana YMCA who serve as National Youth Organiser and National Youth Secretary respectively. They have both served long years in the Ghana YMCA volunteering in various capacities to help the organisation to implement its programmes and mobilise young people at the local level.

The S2C programme is a brilliant framework designed to develop the civic competence of young leaders

to equip the youth leaders with the skills to fully participate in governance processes and encourage other young people to be civically active.

The programme focuses on key components such as “transformative masculinity,” “youth justice,” “civic action,” and “economic renaissance”. The programme also gives young people the space to operate and build their capacity in the area of leadership within the YMCA and their communities.

Aba Dodoo, is a graduate of the Takoradi Technical University from the department of Procurement and Supply in the faculty of business. She is a professional in procurement and also the founder of Finger Foods Catering Services and Pamper U

GH.

She believes that through this programme, she shall achieve her dream of being one of the most prominent voices in the World YMCA championing gender equality and leading solutions for young people across the world.

Francisca Ohenewaa holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Family and Consumers Sciences (Family and child studies option) from the University of Ghana, Legon. She is an aspiring filmmaker and a diversified entrepreneur.

Ohenewa's ambition is to help protect young girls and mothers who find themselves in abusive relationships that infringes on their fundamental human rights and create opportunities for them to be empowered. It is her hope

INTRODUCING THE GHANA YMCA'S S2C AMBASSADORS: **ABA & OHENEWA**

that this programme shall provide her with the leadership capacity needed to realise her ambition.

Since their nomination as S2C Ambassadors, Aba and Ohenewa have been working tirelessly to engage young people. As part of their Save The Environment Project (STEP) the S2C Ambassadors have been sensitising young people on the need to manage waste properly. To mark Africa Youth month, they created a video in both vernacular and English to raise awareness on the need to keep the environment tidy. They also mobilised fellow young people, including YMCA volunteers to clean their communities.

Also, the new ambassadors organized a capacity

building training for young people on 27th November, 2021 to teach them how to recycle waste products into artistic artefacts. At this training, former S2C Ambassador and Climate Change Ambassador, Cedric Dzelu was invited to sensitise young people on the connection between a cleaner environment and climate change.

Over the past years, the World YMCA has engaged young people across the world to participate in the S2C (subject to citizen) programme. S2C has already mobilized more than 5000 youths through ambassadors with over 100 already involved in leadership positions in their YMCAs on local and national level.

