

# GHANA YMCA

3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER NEWSLETTER  
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# GHANA YMCA TRAINS ASPIRING FILMMAKING TRAINERS

**A**s part of efforts to increase access to low-threshold film education, the Ghana YMCA has trained twenty-five aspiring filmmakers with the hope of further building their capacity to become trainers at the Ghana YMCA's Media Hub Education Centre (MHEC).

The participants, numbering ten males and fifteen young women received training in the areas of Writing and Directing for Documentary, Writing and Directing for Fiction, Film Producing, Cinematography and Media For Peace.

The 10-day intensive workshop was held at the Regional Office of the Eastern Regional YMCA. Participants received education on filmmaking principles and were given equipment to practice their knowledge on the field. Through Media For Peace, the participants were also sensitized on the need to use their skills to produce films that promote peace and social cohesion.

For the final three days of the workshop, the participants received advanced lessons from a filmmaking expert, Abu Idriss who took them through script

breakdown and visual storytelling.

Prince Nkrumah, who has been a Trainer in Cinematography since 2018 reflected on his journey with the workshop and the filmmaking project in general.

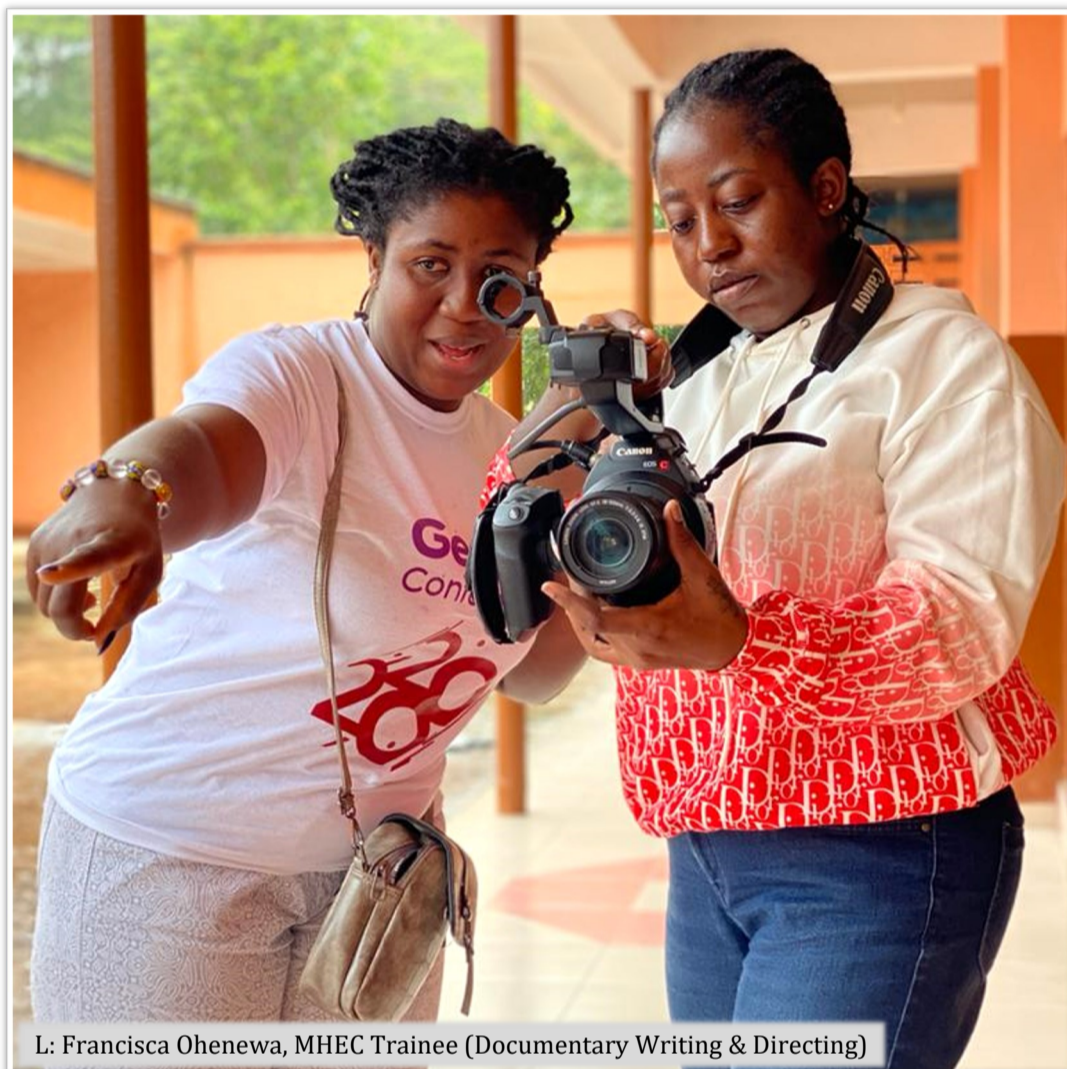
“I was already in the filmmaking space as a Cinematographer but since I joined this project in 2018 I can boldly say that I have gained so much experience in my field. Today I am excited to see other young people begin their own journey. I could tell the aspiring filmmakers loved the workshop because some of them started planning their projects even before the training ended. From their own words, the training has empowered them a lot. If you are a young



Prince Nkrumah, MHEC Trainer (Camera & Editing)



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L: Francisca Ohenewa, MHEC Trainee (Documentary Writing & Directing)



filmmaker out there, I will encourage you to participate in the Ghana YMCA's filmmaking training workshops to polish yourself and thank me later," he stated.

An aspiring filmmaker, Francisca Ohenewa, who trained in the area of Writing and Directing for Documentary disclosed that the workshop was a great experience and has provided her with the perfect foundation to build a career in documentary film directing.

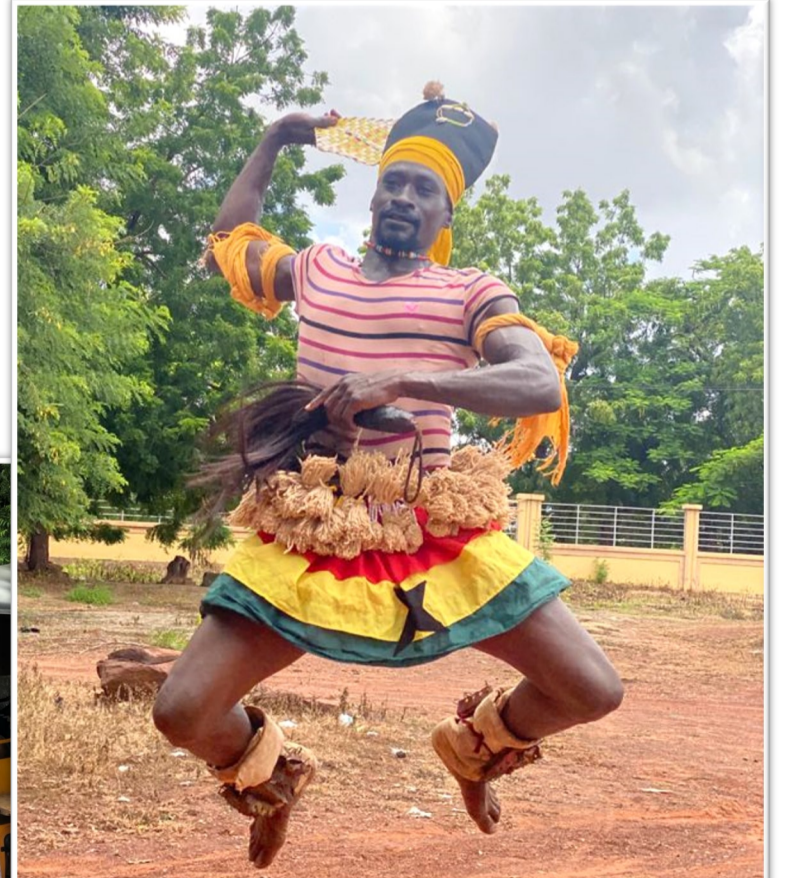
"My experience on the training was very lovely. Staying together with other young people from different backgrounds, different ethnic groups, different regions for two weeks and working on a common goal was one thing I had experienced for the first time in my life. I really

loved it. I learnt how to write and direct a documentary film and I also learnt procedures on set. I also had the experience of being in charge of welfare on a film set. This training has boosted my confidence as a filmmaker and whatever I have gained practically has motivated me to take up filmmaking as a career path," she disclosed.

Following the successful completion of the workshop, the participants shall continue their development by visiting the Ghana YMCA's Media Hub Education Centre at will to use any of its services and equipment.

This year's filmmaking project dubbed Resilient Africa Film Project is being implemented with the kind support of our partners Bread for the World.

## GALLERY — GHANA YMCA IN TAMALE



# ANNUAL FILMMAKING TRAINING TOUR SETS OFF IN TAMALE, N/R

**T**he Ghana YMCA has begun its annual series of filmmaking training workshops at Tamale in the Northern Region of Ghana where over 40 young people have been trained in basic filmmaking. The workshop which was held at Northern Regional Secretariat of the National Youth Authority (NYA), trained the participants in the areas of Writing and Directing for Documentary, Writing and Directing for Fiction, Camera Handling and Editing, Producing and Media for Peace.

This workshop marked the first time the filmmaking workshop or any major Ghana YMCA intervention has been held in the Northern Region. As part of the workshop, Trainers at the Ghana YMCA's Media Hub Education Centre (MHEC) led the production of two short films supported by the trainees of the workshop.

The Programmes Director of the Ghana YMCA, Samuel Asamoah, expressed pride in the organisation's drive to reach more regions with its interventions. He emphasised that the organisation was committed to ensuring that more of such activities are implemented in every region of the country.

"We have truly enjoyed the first visit of the film project to the Northern Region of Ghana. The Northern Region has a beautiful culture and a vibrant filmmaking scene, and it is the hope of the Ghana YMCA to sustain a continued partnership with the young filmmakers here. We have an even greater hope of making this project



accessible to all young filmmakers across Ghana to enable us to tell the Ghanaian story to the world," he stated.

Dawuda Alhassan Osman, a young producer disclosed that the training has significantly improved his filmmaking capacity. He called on the Ghana YMCA to organise more of such trainings regularly to provide more knowledge and skills for young filmmakers.

"As a prospective Creative Producer, I feel I have benefitted greatly from this training in terms of deepening my knowledge about filmmaking and learning new skills. I will take everything I have learnt here with me and use them for my future productions. I will work hard to change the face of the filmmaking scene here and make the Ghana YMCA proud for coming to do this workshop for us," he said.

On the flipside, Osman also added that through the production of the short documentary, he has learned about the rich history behind one of the most popular dances of his people, the Dagombas.

"I came for film lessons, but I got way more than that. Through the production of our short film,



Baamaaya, I learned the history of our great dance from the traditional ruler of the town from which the dance originated. It reminded me again of the many beautiful stories we have to tell as Ghanaians and I cannot wait to start using my new skills for a new film," he stated.

Following the Tamale workshop, the filmmaking training train will make stops at Koforidua and Accra in 2021. In 2022, the project will train participants in Kumasi, Ho and Takoradi. Interested persons can follow the Ghana YMCA Facebook page to know when the train stops in your region.

# YOUTH JUSTICE III: E/R YMCA ENGAGES WITH TRI-CYCLISTS



Shakiru Akinyemi

**T**he Eastern Regional YMCA has held a mega sensitization workshop for members of the Koforidua 'Pragya' [Tricycle] Riders Association on 25th August 2021 to educate them on their rights and responsibilities as road users.

The workshop which was held at the Eastern Regional YMCA office received over three hundred commercial try

-cyclists who engaged directly with high-level officers from key stakeholders and regulators such as the Ghana Police Service, the Drivers' Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA), National Youth Authority (NYA), Motor Traffic and Transport Department (MTTD), Road Safety Commission and the Municipal Guard.

The workshop was part of the Ghana YMCA's Youth Justice III project which seeks to strengthen the

resilience of young people at risk of offending the law, young people in conflict with the law and young ex-detainees.

This workshop was as an unprecedented opportunity for the cyclists who are generally marginalized by stakeholders to hold an open conversation with authorities and receive education on road safety regulations.

Speaking to press after the event, the Regional Director of the Eastern Regional YMCA, Mr

Daniel Ofosu disclosed that the cyclists were engaged because they are a vulnerable group who are highly at risk at offending the law due to the controversial nature of their profession.

"Firstly, I chose the Pragya cyclists based on the carnage statistics show they cause on our roads. The second consideration was their age because many of them are between the ages of 12 and 20 years who ideally should be in school or learning a trade. Most importantly,

# YOUTH JUSTICE III: E/R YMCA ENGAGES WITH TRI-CYCLISTS



they are constantly at risk of offending the law because their activity is essentially illegal, they are largely ignorant of traffic regulations. It is our hope that following this workshop they will better observe traffic situations, be more law-abiding and be more polite towards their passengers,” he explained.

Chairman of the Koforidua Cyclists Association, Baba Awudu disclosed that he was happy with the opportunity for his members to engage with such key stakeholders. He was hopeful that the lessons learned at the workshop would be imbibed by the cyclists to make their work safer. “I am very happy that a prestigious organisation such as the Ghana YMCA has taken a keen interest in us and our

work. Over the years we have been operating, we have never had such an opportunity to engage with such huge stakeholders. So we are very grateful to the Ghana YMCA for giving us a platform to voice our concerns and also for the various authorities to give us some advice,” he stated.

Similar workshops have been held for young people in the project locations i.e. Ashanti, Volta and Greater Accra. The Youth Justice Project III 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).



Baba Awudu, Chairman, Koforidua Pragya Assoc.

# YOUTH JUSTICE III: GHANA YMCA ENGAGES YOUNG PEOPLE IN A/R, V/R



**A**s part of the Youth Justice III project, the Ghana YMCA continues to engage with young people to educate them on their legal rights and responsibilities. The purpose of these engagements is to strengthen the resilience of young people who are at risk of offending the law, young people already in conflict with the law and young ex-detainees.



In the Ashanti Region, the project team organised a workshop for young people at Wawase and its environs to sensitise them on how to avoid conflict with the law and educate them on how law enforcement agencies process conflict with the law.

The workshop was facilitated by District Commander for Mampong teng Police Service, DSP Nathan Apraku Yeboah and Madam Ellen Appiah in the presence of



# **YOUTH JUSTICE III: GHANA YMCA ENGAGES YOUNG PEOPLE IN A/R, V/R**

the Ashanti-BA Regional Director, Gabriel Ohene Appiah and some honourable volunteers of the Ghana YMCA.

The Region also held a short football tournament for young people in the town which was crowned with a beautiful trophy presented by the Regional Director of the Ashanti-BA YMCA.

The Volta Regional YMCA also held a workshop to sensitise young people on how law enforcement officers deal with juvenile cases in accordance with the law, the role of citizens, especially the youth in crime prevention and the importance of fostering good police-citizen relationships.

The workshop was facilitated by Inspector Millicent Glakpe who also led the participants to tour the Ho Market Police Station and to educate the youth on processes at police

station. Participants also received YMCA souvenirs and Ghana YMCA branded nose masks.

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).



# ONLINE CLASSES BEGIN FOR DFS TRAINEES

**P**articipants have begun receiving lessons on the novel Digital Film School (DFS) project being implemented by the Ghana YMCA, DW Akademie, Weltfilme and African University College of Communications (AUCC). The lessons being delivered are in the areas of Screenwriting, Documentary Filmmaking and Creative Producing.

In all, forty-three (43) participants will receive online training via Moodle, Zoom, WhatsApp, Padlet, Slido and Jamboare. Before lessons begun, the participants underwent an extensive orientation on the online tools via which the lessons were delivered. They shall undergo two modules in filmmaking over a period of two weeks, following which they shall be supervised by the trainers to produce four short films not more than 5 minutes in length.

To support the trainees and subsidise their internet costs, each trainee received an allocation for data support to enable them to log onto the online platforms.

Yaa Korantemaa, a student in the documentary class shared her excitement over getting her first lessons in filmmaking.

“I have always been fascinated by



Peter Sedufia making a DFS instructional video

the art of filmmaking but I had never had the chance to partake in any workshop to learn the skill. So I am very excited heading into this training and I look forward to it very much. It is my hope that at the end of the lessons, I shall be able to direct my own films to tell the stories I am passionate about,” she said.

The Digital Film School is an initiative of AUCC, WELTFILME.org, Deutsche Welle Akademie and Ghana YMCA with the support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



L-R: Yaa Boatemaa, Daniel Arthur, DFS Students

