

# NEWSLETTER



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# Highlights

- Senior High School Students Capacitated to come up with Innovative Ideas to Achieve the Goals in their Various Communities.
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  - Parents Urged to Foster Intergenerational Dialogue to Foster Meaningful Sexual and Reproductive Health Engagement.
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## Senior High School Students Capacitated to come up with Innovative Ideas to Achieve the Goals in their Various Communities.

Students of St. Martins Senior High School in Nsawam Adoagyiri have been taken through a week long workshop on the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and trained to come up with innovative ideas to attain the goals in their various communities. This activity is a part of Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG)'s SDG Academy, which builds the capacity of high school students on the SDGs and how they can incorporate it in their engagement at the community level to contribute to the attainment of the goals.

The week long workshop was facilitated by two alumni of American University, Washington DC, USA, Mr. Stephen Sobonya and David Traugott in partnership with YAG. The first two days focused on diving deep into the SDGs and creating comfortable spaces for the students to share their thoughts, opinions, and ideas about Ghana, the US, and world. From Wednesday to Friday, we supported together with our facilitators put the students in their final group project. Six groups of students were developed, where each identified a pressing issue they faced in their communities. The students then developed solutions to their chosen problem that they can realistically implement into their local communities, either in school or at home. These six projects have the potential to decrease instances of poverty, hunger, gender inequality,

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# GFC PEAK Africa Convening in Uganda



YAG together with other Partnership to Educate All Kids (PEAK) Africa partners, convened in Uganda from July 6-9, 2023, for a regional partner's workshop to share tools, practices, and experiences. The regional convening was facilitated by Global Fund for Children together with the LEGO Foundation. The workshop brought together 52 participants from 27 organizations from Ghana, Zambia, Uganda and Kenya. The workshop focused on harnessing the experiences of organizations that are working to create appropriate learning spaces for children, hence YAG's participation.

The workshop was very insightful and served as an inter-organizational and inter-cultural learning platform. Partners from all four countries shared their learning models with one another so all can leverage on strengths and opportunities for an enhanced project results.



## International Youth Day

International Youth Day is a globally celebrated day that appreciates the hard work of young people and to as well remind development partners, government officials, CSOs, UN of how they can leverage the strength, ideas and energetic nature of the youth and use them as ambassadors for change in the globe.

This year's theme, "Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World." The theme of green skills highlights the importance of equipping young people with the skills they need to contribute to a sustainable future. This day is also a reminder for the need to collaborate to foster successful, equitable and sustainable world to ensure "no one is left behind, especially the youth, since they are innovative and hold a lot of energy.

On this day, YAG's Youth for Health (Y4H) Project was highlighted with key messages and videos of its Tanzania Adolescent champions working to ensure the project goal is achieved as well as educating their peers to make informed decisions about their body.





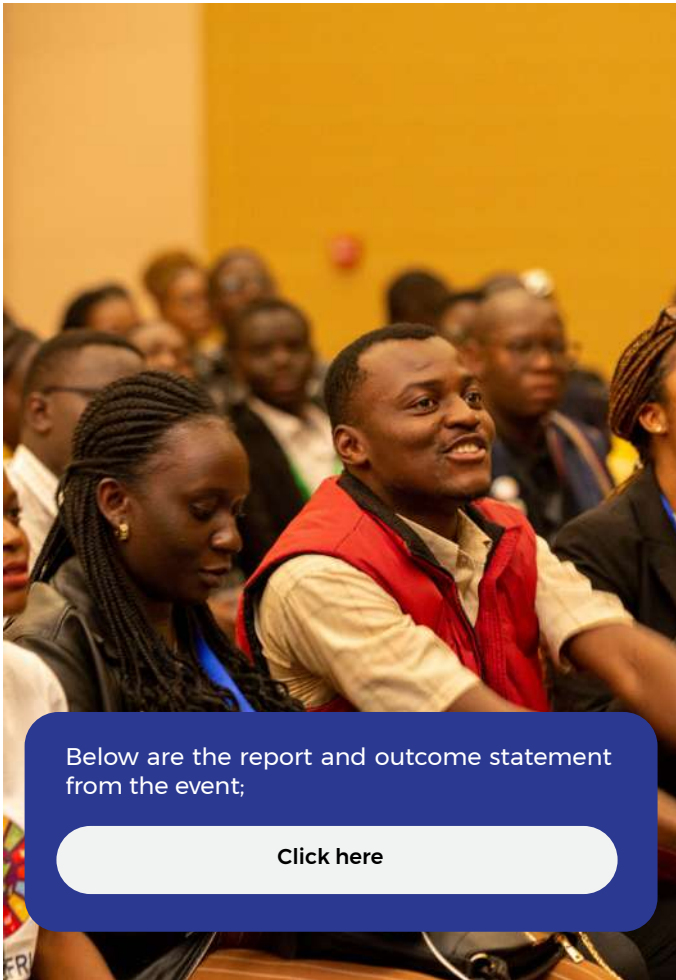
## 5th African Youth SDGs Summit- Lusaka,

The African Youth SDG summit, the largest youth platform for SDGs in Africa is an annual gathering of young people, private sectors, development practitioners, government, African Union and United Nations entities to come together to connect, collaborate, build synergies to address Africa's most pressing issues affecting the continent. The Summit seeks to advocate for strong youth participation in decisions that affects their lives, it also improves awareness and knowledge among the youth about the SDG's and their roles in the review, implementation and accountability process.

The summit was first launched in 2017 with support from UNFPA Ghana and UNDP Ghana, the first three editions were held in Accra, Ghana, the fourth edition was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the fifth edition is set to happen in Lusaka, Zambia. In the last four years, the summit has attracted about 100,000 youth directly and other stakeholders to deliberate on critical issues affecting the achievement of







Below are the report and outcome statement from the event;

[Click here](#)

SDGs. From the interactions of the previous summits held in Accra, Ghana and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, it was evident that the youth of Africa have become increasingly visible and effectively active in influencing national policy with new ideas, philosophies and technological expertise if adequate space is created for them. They have the capacity to bring fresh perspectives to the present development approach, while through critical thinking, innovation, and their own style of communication, they can drive changes in their communities and countries.

This year's summit happened from the 15th to 17th of August, under the theme, "Attaining the SDGs through Youth Innovation and Financing for Inclusive Development in Africa". This year's summit was being organized by the summit secretariat, chaired by Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG), with Alliance for Accountability Advocates Zambia (AAAZ) and 2nd Door as local organizing partners. The summit was also supported by UN Zambia, IOM Africa Liaison Office, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, just to list a few.

## Y4GFF Project Launched to Help Strengthen



The Youth for Global Finance Facility (Y4GFF) was on Friday launched in Accra to build capacities of youth-led organisations to gather data to help play advocacy in strengthening the country's health system for improved healthcare delivery.

Launched by Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG), the implementing agency, the 12-month project, seeks to bring youth-led organisations to share valuable lessons and best practices, fostering youth engagement in healthcare.

The key thematic areas of the project are building capacities of youth-led organisations to promote evidenced-based advocacy in Sexual Reproductive, Maternal, New-born Child and Adolescent Health (SRMNCAH+N) and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

The YAG-led project is being funded by PAI, and it is in collaboration with the Ghana Health Services and the Ghana Education Service, for efficient and effective delivery of implementation plans.

[Read more](#)

## Parents Urged to Foster Intergenerational Dialogue to Foster Meaningful Sexual and Reproductive Health Engagement.

Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG) together Marie Stopes Ghana have engaged parents, community gatekeepers, adolescents, religious and traditional leaders to foster inter-generational dialogue as a pathway to strategically promote adolescent sexual and reproductive health rights (ASRHR).

The programme was held in selected districts in the Northern and Upper East Region of Ghana, from September 11 to 16 and September 25 to 29 respectively.

The inter-generational dialogue is a part of activities under the Youth for Health (Y4H) project which is Co-funded by the European Union.

The activity was carried out in selected communities in the five (5) Y4H Project implementing districts; Nanton, Saboba, and Nanumba North districts for the Northern Region, and Bongo and Bolgatanga East Districts for the Upper East Region.



[Read more](#)

## Youth for Health (Y4H) Project Launch in Ghana

The Youth for Health (Y4H), a three-year project co-funded by European Commission, was officially launched in Ghana on Wednesday, September 20th, 2023 in Accra, Ghana. The project aims to increase demand for, and access to, high-quality, discrimination-free adolescent sexual and reproductive health rights (ASRHR) information and services; increase public sector willingness and capacity to deliver and sustain high-quality ASRHR information and services, and improve enabling policy and funding environment at regional, national, and sub-national level of the project.

The project builds on MSI and partners' experience in supporting the delivery of adolescent-friendly healthcare, advocating for increased domestic funding for adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASRHR), and strengthening the capacity of adolescents, youth and community structures.

The Y4H project is being implemented in six countries in Africa from 2022-2025. In Ghana, the project is implemented by Marie Stopes Ghana (MSG) and Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG) in the Northern and Upper East regions.



YAG leads on the implementation of the reproductive health education (RHE) for in-and-out of school adolescents in Ghana and contribute to awareness raising and policy dialogue on SRHR of vulnerable adolescents.



## Digital Media Advocacy to End Child Marriage



Child marriage is the practice of marriage (formal or informal) of an individual below 18 years. Globally, 12 million girls are married before the age 18 each year, which means 23 girls every minute and nearly 1 every 3 seconds. The drivers of this practice include poverty, gender inequality, cultural and religious norms among others. Evidence show elevated effects of child marriages including school drop outs (Over 9 in 10 married girls are not attending school), sexual and gender based violence, early child birth, Maternal Mortality, sexual transmitted infections, and mental health challenges (suicidal thoughts or attempts among girls promised or requested in marriage and married girls).

Ghana has made strong progress compared to other countries in West and Central Africa. Significant policies and strategies targeted at ending child marriages include the National Framework on Ending Child Marriage (2017 to 2026), the Adolescent Reproductive Health Policy (2000), and the Justice for Children policy (2015). Nevertheless, eliminating child marriage will require additional and collaborative efforts.

In line with efforts to reduce and eliminate child marriages in Ghana, Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG) and Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG) will be engaging in a series of activities to drive this agenda on course. Among these activities is the X space. This activity seeks to contribute to national efforts in ending Child Marriage, through youth-led advocacy activities to influence various stakeholders, and get them to act, in a joint effort to eliminate Child Marriage in Ghana.





# External Events/Workshop Attended

YAG joins other CSOs in a research dissemination and colloquium on the relevance of an evidence based SRHR advocacy by Curious Minds Ghana



WHO Ghana's #WalkTheTalk



Youth-led organizations for a strengthened partnership youth SRHR advocacy meeting by PPAG



Capacity building workshop for youth leaders & CSOs on HIV/AIDS by UNFPA Ghana



## Event to commemorate World Teacher's Day

 Youth Advocates Ghana- YAG @Y... · 3d ...  
In commemoration of the world teachers day, @YagGhana joined @movetheworld\_co and other #PEAK Ghana partners in an event to commemorate the day.

The event supported by @Global4Children appreciated and awarded teachers in the Ga South Municipal.



Mother of all Nations Foundation and 14 others

7 30 405

# Internationally Celebrated Days

## World Contraception Day

 Youth Advocates Ghana... · 26/09/2023 ...  
It's #WorldContraceptionDay!!

Together with partners, our @Y4HProject co-funded by @EU\_Partnerships in the Northern and Upper East Regions of Ghana 🇬🇭 is creating accessible SRHR services and information to adolescents to enable them make informed choices.

#AdolescentFriendly



PAI and 9 others

16 40 1,140

## International Youth Day


 MSI  
REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE

Tomorrow's world will be shaped by the young people of today.


Let's give them choice.

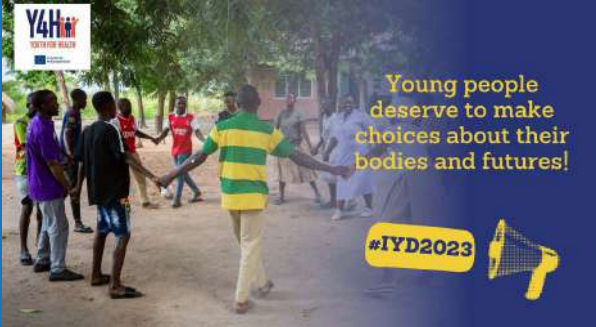
#IYD2023 



 Y4H  
YOUTH ADVOCATES GHANA

Young people deserve to make choices about their bodies and futures!

#IYD2023 





## Partners

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