



United Nations Population Fund, Ghana

Youth Leaders (YoLe) Fellowship

*COVID-19 Heroes:
"Year of Resilience"*



Annual Programme Report
2019-2020





Adolescent Girls
ENDING
MATERNAL





UNFPA

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Dr. Kanem, through her leadership has engineered an environment that has enabled innovation throughout UNFPA.

Under the leadership of the UNFPA Country Representative, Mr. Niyi Ojuolape, the Fellowship has reached unprecedented heights and the young people continue to be grateful for the countless opportunities this unique experience has afforded them.

The role of the Senior Management Team in the overall administration of the Fellowship cannot be overlooked. Their quality decisions have enhanced the ability of Fellows to develop themselves in diverse ways and most importantly, have put young people first.

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To all, we are looking forward to collaborating with you on future activities of the YoLe Fellowship Programme, to ensure that every young person's potential is fulfilled. Together we are making history.



YoLe Cohort 2 fellows with the Deputy Country Representative and country Representative of UNFPA Ghana.

EDITORIAL TEAM

The contributions of the following are gratefully acknowledged.

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Staff

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Photography

Jean-Philip Lawson, George Koranteng, Lavelle Oloye, Julius Mortsu & UNFPA Ghana 2020 Youth Leaders (YoLe) Fellows and Interns.

Design

Julius Mortsu





Celebrating



50

50 Years of Service

#ForTheGoodOfGhana

Front View of UNFPA Ghana Country office

FOREWORD

Population projections suggest that by 2030, young Africans will make up 42 per cent of the global youth population. Based on this projection, the African continent will possess the world's largest young population group. It is our challenge over the next decade to determine if this is a threat or opportunity to Africa's future.

At UNFPA, we believe that the right investment in young people yields dividends that promote sustainable development. We refuse to leave young people on the margins of society to become victims of and contributors to unemployment and underemployment, social insecurity, negative reproductive health outcomes, among other factors. That is why the Youth Leaders (YoLe) Fellowship Programme is important to us.

Over the course of 12 months, we witnessed the significant transformation of 16 brilliant young people in the First Cohort of the Fellowship. After experiencing and learning from well curated trainings, workshops and exposure to real-time field work, the 16 individuals were immersed into various interventions and initiatives within the Country Office (CO). Currently, the Alumni are deploying their learnings in diverse life changing endeavors and we are ever so proud of them.

Our Second Cohort of 21 zealous Fellows did not only make amazing contributions to the overall output of our Office, but stepped up to the plate when it mattered most. At the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, they responded to various community challenges with considerable ingenuity. These Fellows continue to make us proud in the various academic and corporate institutions they find themselves in. The Fellowship is designed to equip young people with the essential tools and skills needed to drive social change and health innovation in their communities. It continues to deliver on its objectives and goals and is absolute testament to the good and hard work of the UNFPA Ghana staff.

Simply put, the model works; when we collectively decide to focus our attention and resources into developing the youth, we can look forward to their active and impactful participation in economics, politics, social life and all facets of living.

We are grateful to those that continue to embark on this journey with us. Your diverse support encourages us to be relentless in our quest to ensure a world where every pregnancy is wanted, where every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Together, let us continue to do everything in our power to ensure that every young person, regardless of their status, receives the needed help to realise their full potential.

Thank you!

Mr Niyi Ojuolape
UNFPA Country Representative





Dr. Agnes Kayitankore
Deputy Country Representative,



Adjoa Nyanteng Yenyi
Programme Specialist, Adolescent & Youth (YoLe Programme Coordinator)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“Young people are indispensable to delivering a future that is more just, inclusive, sustainable and resilient.”

These were the words of the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Rt. Hon Patricia Scotland QC at the launch of the 2020 Global Youth Development Index. Evidently, that is the ethos of the YoLe Fellowship Programme and the spirit behind its activities.

This report chronicles the journey of the Second Cohort of the YoLe Fellowship Programme, highlighting key activities and best practices, results achieved in all major programmes in alignment with the Country Office’s (CO’s) programme delivery and UNFPA’s transformative agenda.

Section One of the report provides an overview of the Fellowship Programme, training programmes, and an insight into working at UNFPA; disclosing information about the teams, units and programmes. Section Two presents a selection of the numerous initiatives and contributions carried out by the Fellows to achieve the CO’s mandate.

The report concludes with Section Three; the graduation, next steps and lessons learned followed by the conclusion and Fellow profiles.

The Fellows engaged in various community-related activities, reaching over 9,000 women, men, girls and boys in underserved communities with a mix of reproductive health commodities and information. The Fellows also played a key part in the CO’s COVID-19 response, as they employed innovative tools, channels and initiatives to reach the most marginalised with information and products related to COVID-19 preventive measures.

The YoLe Fellowship Programme has demonstrated that investment in young people yields outstanding results, and there is a need to intensify efforts in empowering young people to ensure that they achieve their full potential as prescribed by the United Nations Youth Strategy.

UNFPA Ghana encourages other UNFPA Country Offices to replicate the YoLe Fellowship Programme and for partners to continue supporting this initiative.

BACKGROUND

There are more young people in the world than ever before. Today, there are over 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24 years, worldwide. According to the UN World Population Prospects (2019), 57 per cent of Ghana's population are below the age of 25 years.

If gainfully and productively engaged, a youthful population constitutes a potential resource for growth and development. Both, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063 identify youth as key partners for sustainable development. Therefore, young people are critical to development and these important human assets must be protected, guided and up-skilled for countries to truly advance their development agendas and economic growth. Without proper guidance, mentorship and opportunities for betterment, the youth can become vulnerable members of society; susceptible to social vices, violence, crime, abuse, hazardous informal employment schemes and unemployment.

The Challenge of Youth Unemployment

Whilst unemployment is a challenge across all working age groups, the impact among the youth is particularly severe especially amongst females. Youth unemployment and joblessness are major socio-economic and political problems for Ghana and other African countries. Unemployed youth have no active source of steady income. As such they have less disposable income to spend and invest and therefore they are unable to contribute effectively to national development. Ultimately, such young people become disempowered to lead and promote social change in their own communities.

While unemployment has varied causes, in some instances, young people simply lack the required skills to work in various occupations. Such skills deficit not only has a negative bearing on the youth but also on public and private institutions who need employees but are unable to find those with the requisite skills.

Data from the Institute of Statistics, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) of the University of Ghana shows that only 10 per cent of graduates find jobs after their first year of completing school.

We must ensure that young people are provided with more opportunities for economic empowerment to safeguard a sustainable future against growing societal inequalities. This requires governments, parents, educators and decision makers to support the youth through various initiatives.

YoLe Fellowship Programme

As a key stakeholder, UNFPA tackles this challenge, by offering a one year accelerated Fellowship Programme. Since its inception in 2018, the YoLe Fellowship Programme has addressed many gaps in youth development, providing promising young people with skills in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) advocacy, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), networking and interviewing skills among other personal and professional competencies, while contributing meaningfully to the work and overall output of the Country Office. The YoLe Fellowship Programme was established in line with the United Nations' Youth Strategy launched in 2018, which calls on UN agencies to increase impact and expand global, regional, and country-level action to address the needs, build the agency of young people and tap into their capabilities as agents of change. As such, the Fellowship trains, and builds the capacity of young leaders to change their communities by engineering solutions to the many socio-economic challenges plaguing them.

The Fellowship equips young people to be adaptive and relevant in an ever-morphing world and provides the opportunity to see the first-hand impact of development work at the grass-roots level. It also provides a learning and networking space for young people to discuss ways to realize Agenda 2030 and to build strong knowledge and social capital that will be instrumental along their career paths. Further to this, the Fellowship provides safe spaces for peer collaboration, learning, leadership and mentorship opportunities from experts.

Recognising the significant potential for economic transformation, Ghana's current demographic structure presents, UNFPA Ghana rolled out the Second Cohort of its ground-breaking Youth Leaders Fellowship Programme, on the 6th of January 2020, by welcoming 21 Fellows drawn from diverse backgrounds.

Alumni of the Programme have been successful with job placements in the development sector and graduate admissions with scholarships for further studies.

Ghana in 2020, according to data from the annual Ghana Health Service statistics, 13 teenage pregnancies were recorded every hour. The youngest age recorded was 10 years.

1.8B

and more young people in the world today, 90 per cent of whom live in developing countries



57%

of Ghana's 30.42 million population are below the age of 25 years, according to the UN World Population Prospects (2019 Revision)



310

girls were impregnated every day in Ghana in 2020, according to data from the annual Ghana Health Service statistics, 13 teenage pregnancies were recorded every hour. The youngest age recorded was 10 years



31%

of Ghana's youth population is not in education, employment or training according to ILO Statistics (2021)





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SECTION 1

OVERVIEW

THE YOUTH LEADERS (YoLe) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The Youth Leadership Fellowship Programme was launched in line with UNFPA's mission to "deliver a world where every young person's potential is fulfilled." The Fellowship is also in congruence with the UN Youth Strategy 2030, which calls on all UN agencies to "increase impact and expand global, regional and country-level action to address the needs, build the agency and advance the rights of young people in all their diversity." Furthermore, the Fellowship aligns with the priority areas of the Ghana National Youth Policy, which includes skills training in ICT, gender main-streaming, networking and partnership, mentoring and reproductive health and rights for young people. The Fellowship Programme was launched in 2018 with 16 Fellows for the First Cohort and in January 2020, 21 Fellows were recruited for the Second Cohort.

The year-long programme is designed to expose young people to the UN System, empower them in UNFPA's mandate areas while providing opportunities for Fellows to develop their personal and professional lives through health innovation labs and various professional development training sessions.

The Fellowship targets graduates from top Ghanaian institutions who are passionate and driven to be "Global Change Ambassadors" in their communities. Selected candidates partake in vigorous crash courses and intensive capacity building sessions which focus on topics such as, leadership styles, communication and public-speaking, proposal writing, human centered design, gender equality in innovation and research methodology. IT-inclined training sessions focus on coding and web design/development.

In addition to the trainings and workshops, the Fellows gain hands-on work experience with UNFPA, when they are deployed to the various units of the Country Office, to work as members of the unit teams.

21

energetic and zealous young Fellows from diverse backgrounds determined to make a difference in the world and support development. 2:1 ratio of females to males in the 2020 cohort. Out of the 21 fellows, 14 were female and 7 were male.

455

memorable days of mentorship, business and entrepreneurial training, professional training, health innovation, coding sessions, outreach programs, development initiatives and conferences.

17

program partners supporting the Fellowship Programme, including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the private sector, agencies and individuals who have the development of young people at heart.

90000

women, girls, men and boys reached in various marginalised communities in Ghana. The YoLe Fellows engaged in over 10 community outreaches programmes to provide information on COVID-19, family planning, sexual and genderbased violence.



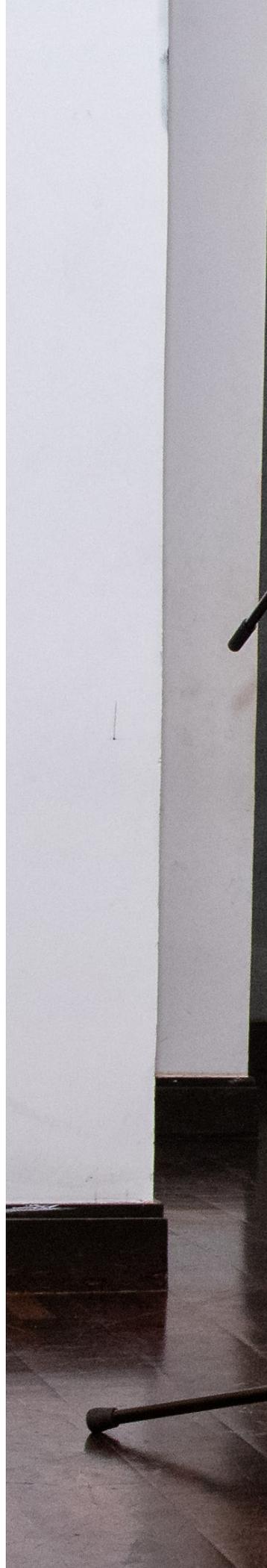
Fatahiya Sumaila, A YoLe Fellow, engaging a truck driver on SGBV

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOLE FELLOWS COHORT II

After a rigorous application process, UNFPA Ghana carefully selected 21 Fellows from various tertiary educational institutions in Ghana. This Second Cohort of Fellows were diverse with representation from four African countries; Ghana, Togo, Ivory Coast and Nigeria with varying educational backgrounds. Selection of the candidates was based on demonstrated activism and interest in the advancement of the rights of youth.

The 21 Fellows comprised of 14 females and 7 males, all of whom were graduates from top institutions with impressive and diverse professional and extracurricular backgrounds. The Fellows were endowed with varying degrees of knowledge of thematic areas including, health, media and communications, digital marketing, human rights, youth and child development, women empowerment and sexual and reproductive health, to name a few. This rich collection of knowledge and passion proved a great asset to the Country Office.

Each Fellow brought on board unique skills to support the Country Office to achieve the SDGs and the mission of UNFPA. The Second Cohort of Fellows joined the UNFPA Ghana Office on the 6th of January 2020, followed by the official inauguration ceremony on the 10th of February 2020.






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where every
pregnancy is wanted,
every childbirth
is safe and every
young person's
potential is fulfilled.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND


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ACCRA GHANA

Jennifer Esi Aniwa, a YoLe Fellow, MC-ing an event



Inauguration of YoLe Cohort 2 Fellows

INSPIRING DAY



INAUGURATION OF THE YOLE FELLOWS COHORT II

On the 10th of February 2020, UNFPA in partnership with 'Those Who Inspire', an organization that connects young people to professional mentors by sharing local inspiring stories, organized the Inauguration Ceremony to officially welcome the Second Cohort of the YoLe Fellowship Programme.

The event convened members of the Diplomatic Corps, staff of various United Nations agencies, partners, family and friends of the Fellows at the Swiss Spirit Alisa Hotel in Accra, Ghana.

Prior to the Inauguration Ceremony, a book launch and speed mentoring session were held with mentors from different professional fields known as the 'Inspiring People'. All attendees of the Inauguration participated in the speed mentoring sessions, which gave opportunity for the 'Inspiring People' to share their professional and life experiences with different groups of young people.

Representatives from UBA Bank and Ecobank Ghana delivered statements which reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the Fellowship Programme. After a few additional statements and other ceremonial gestures, the Fellows were officially inaugurated as members of the Fellowship Programme's Second Cohort. All 21 Fellows received their official UN IDs and a newly published book from Those Who Inspire.

Within the UNFPA Ghana Country Office, the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) Unit is responsible for the general oversight of the Youth Leaders Fellowship. As such, the Head of the ASRH Unit carries out the overall administration of the Fellowship. In support, the Project Manager, who reports to the Head of the ASRH Unit, but operates under the technical guidance of the National Programme Analyst for the ASRH unit, handles the day-today management of the Fellowship Programme.

The YoLe Fellows work together within three teams;

- Team
- Outreach Team
- Media Team

These teams are responsible for the daily administrative, programming and media-related activities of the Fellowship under the overall supervision of the YoLe Secretariat, which is headed by the Project Manager.

ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Administration and Management (A&M) Team is primarily responsible for the coordination of all YoLe-Fellowship activities. The team also assists with the maintenance of the Orange Loft (the official office of the Fellows). The A&M Team co-ordinates most activities that Fellows will implement and ensures that all logistical and procurement arrangements are completed.

YOLE

YOUTH LEADERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

INAUGURATION OF 2ND COHORT
Inspiring Our Generation - The UNFPA Youth Leaders Fellowship

5:30 pm

Alisa Hotel, North Ridge, Accra



Ms. Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Ghana



Mrs. Ivana Amponsah, A YoLe Fellow addressing young girls in an outreach

Furthermore, the team ensures that all meetings with Fellows are properly documented. The team members report to the identified Team Leader, who serves as the linkage between the team and the YoLe Secretariat.

The Team Leader keeps the Secretariat well informed of team plans and needs.

OUTREACH TEAM

The Outreach Team designs and implements community based interventions such as community outreaches. Through these community outreach activities, the team works to ensure that Fellows are able to actualize their ideas at the community level in terms of advancing and promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights in deprived and under-resourced communities. All Fellows actively participate in the concept, design and implementation of these activities.

By sharing information and resources to community members during interventions, Fellows are working towards addressing the challenges of target communities such as eliminating sexual and gender-based violence.

The Team Leader relays the plans and ambitions of the team to the YoLe Secretariat for necessary actions.

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The Media and Communications team works to ensure that the activities of the Fellowship Programme are appropriately publicised.

Additionally, the team is responsible for designing publications and content to be used on the various social media pages of the Country Office.

The Team Leader ensures effective communication between the team and Secretariat.

CONTENT & MODULES

DESIGN, EXECUTION & EXPERIENCES

Under the Fellowship, the Fellows undergo a training programme comprising of six training modules, namely; leadership and team building, innovation labs, career and academic development, interactions with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the diplomatic community and special lectures and talks. These modules are designed to deliver locally relevant and globally instrumental content in a bid to shape Fellows into today's and tomorrow's leaders. Before these modules begin, the Fellows are taken through 'Orientation Week', which acquaints them with the necessary information about the Office and the daily activities of UNFPA.

ORIENTATION SESSIONS

During the orientation sessions, Fellows were introduced to all units of the Country Office, from the Country Representative's Office to Operations and Management. These sessions gave an insight into the advanced work of UNFPA and gave the Fellows the opportunity to engage with staff and ask questions about their distinct work activities.

The Second Cohort had the unique opportunity to meet and interact with Alumni from the First Cohort. They shared their experiences and advice on how to make the best of their time in the Fellowship.



Orientation session with past YoLe Fellows



Mr. Eric Okrah, National Programme Analyst, P&D Unit, orienting Fellows on the Population and Development Unit

SPECIAL LECTURES AND TALKS

This module usually features sessions in which the Fellows engage with key personalities from diverse fields. These sessions are organized to foster interactions with industry leaders, where the Fellows can obtain first-hand information about careers and subject-areas of interest. The sessions offer mentoring opportunities that allow the Fellows to learn and broaden their social net worth.

During the sessions, the Fellows in the Second Cohort engaged with the following industry leaders; Mr. Kwesi Pratt, popularly called Myster Pratt (a leading Master of Ceremony), Ms. Enam Ami Agbozo (Digital Marketing Strategist - Qode Hub), Mr. Robert Akoto Amofo (Country Director - Amnesty International) and Ms. Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah (Communications specialist - AWDF and co-founder of the blog 'Adventures from the Bedrooms of African Women').

This mix of personalities represented a diverse pool of subject areas from entertainment, entrepreneurship and business management and leadership in COVID-19, to sexual and reproductive health and rights advocacy, marketing and trading. The Fellows found all sessions highly inspiring and beneficial.

INNOVATION LABS

Innovation remains a core component of the Fellowship, given now more than ever, there have been global and regional calls for innovation in response to the world's ever evolving complex social, economic and political challenges. Innovation Labs consist of a mix of strategies, activities, lectures and presentations about innovation, particularly in the field of sexual and reproductive health. Under this module, the Fellows were given an understanding of the innovation ecosystem in Ghana, the various roles different stakeholders play in promoting innovation and the tools needed to innovate for health and healthy living.



A presentation on Business Model canvas during a group work

MINI-HACKATHON

Beyond theoretical learning, it is important for the Fellowship to deliver practical learning opportunities. Thus, as the Fellows learned about innovation in theory, simultaneously they participated in group activities. They were tasked with identifying specific sector challenges of Ghana's economy and formulating innovative solutions, which they presented in 3-minute pitches. This mini hackathon challenged the Fellows and while this exercise was yet another means by which they learned, it was also an opportunity to demonstrate teamwork and presentation skills.

COALITION-BUILDING WITH INNOVATION PARTNERS

The 17th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets the importance of partnerships in achieving the goals. In the context of innovation, we cannot deny that establishing partnerships and coalitions between and among stakeholders is necessary for innovation. From private institutions and individuals to Government institutions, the Fellows were introduced to various techniques to enhance partnership collaboration. The Fellows were tasked with a coalition-building group exercise, with a focus on current developmental issues. The purpose of the exercise was to highlight the need for creating content specific pitches to build coalitions for different types of partners.



Fatahiya Sumaila and Francis Oko Amarah in a group work

LEADERSHIP & TEAM BUILDING

Leadership skills can be experienced at any level regardless of an individual's title. Strong leadership skills are critical for a leader to identify and maximise the strengths of their team and partners. As such, these modules are a significant part of the YoLe Fellowship Programme.

UNFPA partnered with DK Consult, the African Health Innovation Centre (AHIC) and The Pearl Safe Haven to deliver the module. The module began with the definition of leadership followed by personal reflection, which gave the Fellows the opportunity to share their own leadership experiences. The Fellows also learned about the principles of leadership and explored traits of some of the world's most influential leaders. UNFPA organises and facilitates the implementation of varied national and international conferences. Therefore, it is important for the Fellows to learn how to lead whilst delivering certain logistical processes for conferences. The Second Cohort gained the opportunity to learn about distinct events and how to lead and build teams in the process of engaging such events (e.g. planning and executing conferences). They learned skills in leadership, teambuilding, moderation and facilitation.

PERSONAL PRODUCTIVITY SKILLS

This session focused on leadership of self and of others. Discussions were focused on the character of a leader, what constitutes a team, identifying the main skills of visionary and transformational leadership, change management and barriers to address. The Fellows were also taught how to identify the skills and traits of an effective team member, and how to assess leadership and personal productivity skills. The Fellows were most excited to learn about organizational politics and how to navigate and influence it positively. They were asked to use HBR's Office Politics for further reading about organizational politics. As part of activities during the session, the group discussed the following questions:

- *Can leadership be learnt? If so, how?*
- *Can we have leaders in any sector? Explain.*

The discussions from the Fellows revealed that while some people may be born with certain leadership traits, other leadership traits can be acquired through mentorship and training. Some sectors have people who have mastered the level of expertise required for the role and are thus seen as leaders. The Fellows watched a video on leadership by Myles Munroe, followed by a brief discussion on the lessons learned.

During this session, the Fellows discussed personal productivity and change management. The Fellows were introduced to the various characters of change management including; the enablers, detractors and blockers. They were also equipped with the skills to deal with these characters and navigate the change agenda. The Fellows shared examples of change blockers they had encountered, especially working in the public service. The session proved essential to shaping leadership traits of each Fellow.

TEAMWORK

This session discussed the principles of building, working in and leading teams, power relations in teams, conflict management and team decision making. The Fellows were invited to share their understanding of team building through use of synonyms and personal scenarios, including cooperation, unity, and collaboration.

The Fellows were taught that team building is the beginning of every team and in most cases members have no control over how the team is built e.g. staff of an organization, volunteers etc. The Fellows also learned that it is the goal of every team to stick together, but that does not always guarantee results. Therefore, until a team is delivering results, they are not working together.



Fellows in a Group picture with the team from Africa Health Innovation Centre (AHIC)

The session concluded that working together to achieve set results is the best indicator to measure the success of a team.

As team-building is a process, the Fellows were introduced to the four stages of team formation: forming stage, storming stage, norming stage and the performing stage.

During the session, the Fellows also discussed team management and interpersonal conflicts. The Fellows and Program Managers presented shared methods for conflict management during the YoLe Fellowship Programme. Methods included mediation, dialogue, open dialogue meetings, and creating safe spaces to discuss and resolve issues. The Fellows agreed the most effective method for dealing with team conflict was to be open and collaborate to resolve it. The session ended with a discussion on team decision making. Consensus building was considered as the most appropriate form of decision making.

This discussion was extended to decision making in the political space where democratic ways of arriving at decisions were scrutinized.



Emily Sheldon, CEO of the Africa Health Innovation Centre (AHIC) taking Fellows through an Innovation Lab session



Fellows presenting a group work on Health Innovation during an Innovation Lab session

CAREER & ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

The essence of the YoLe Fellowship Programme is to prepare young graduates for the next phases of their lives. This module delivers a wide range of lessons and experiences in entrepreneurship, professional development and pursuing academic and professional goals. The module was jointly executed by AHIC, Pearl Safe Haven and DK Consult. An element of mental health awareness was included in the module to assist the Fellows with mental wellbeing management especially when dealing with academic and professional stress factors. The Mental Health Matters (MHM) group, delivered this aspect of the module.

BUSINESS MODEL DEVELOPMENT

Giving Fellows the tools to turn business ideas into actual businesses is at the heart of the Fellowship. As a result, the Fellows are taught various strategies on how to start a business. This session opened with an introduction to the Business Model Canvas (BMC). The Fellows learnt about different business models and the nine distinct segments of the BMC; Customer Segments, Value Propositions, Channels, Customer Relationships, Revenue Streams, Key Resources, Key Activities, Key Partnerships and Cost Structure. Using the identified segments of the BMC, the Fellows were challenged to apply the same thought process to other social impact projects/ventures. By the end of the session, the Fellows were able to produce ideas for their own social and business ventures. The Fellows also learnt how to deliver exciting business pitches to attract donors, investors, partners and other relevant stakeholders. After this, the Fellows were given a crash course in finance, finance forecasting and data- aspects of financial literacy. For some of the Fellows, these financial terms and concepts were “foreign.” Nevertheless, the session enabled the Fellows to develop an understanding for the concepts and their place in managing an enterprise.

CAREER CHOICES & APPLYING FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Drawing from the vision board exercise that took place in the earlier session, the Fellows were challenged to clarify their career and academic goals. They were taught the best methods to search and apply for Graduate programmes of their choice, both home and abroad. Additionally, they were advised on how to search and apply for scholarships. The Fellows also had the opportunity to interact with a Ghanaian postgraduate student pursuing a master’s in Politics and International Relations in China on a full scholarship, granted by the Chinese Government.

PERSONAL BRANDING & NETWORKING

Building a brand identity in today’s world remains central to enhancing one’s professional profile. In recent years, one of the widely used tools for achieving this has been social media. The Fellows were given the necessary tools to build a personal digital brand of influence. They garnered that building a brand identity involved communicating one’s vision, authenticity, personality, advocacy, commitment, differentiation and value. The elements to building a personal brand, virtual personality, online profile and digital identity were extensively discussed. Discussions were opened on the importance of social networks and networking. The Fellows were taught to be intentional about networking. They were guided on how to network in-person and virtually.

INTERVIEW PREPARATIONS & CV/RESUME BUILDING

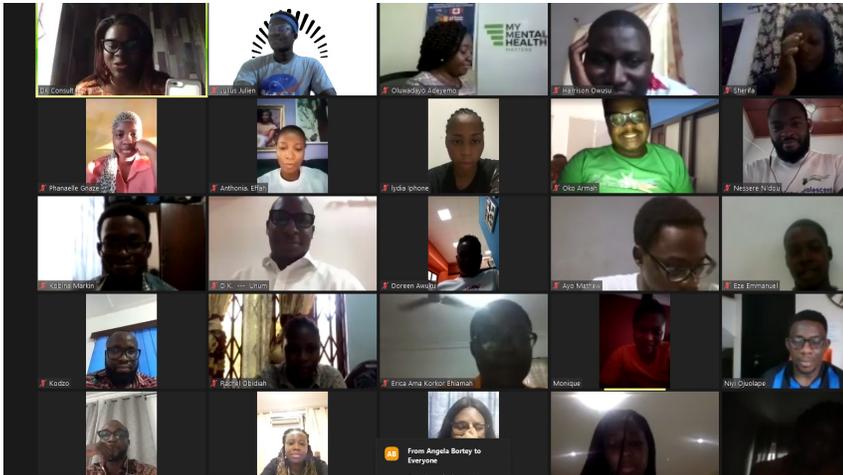
This session covered the essential factors to successfully search for jobs, make applications and conduct interviews. The Fellows were taught how to create Google alerts for online job opportunities and were introduced to the key components of a cover letter. Unlike the traditional application letter, the cover letter requires the applicant to demonstrate their technical competencies, experience and qualifications for the advertised position. The distinction between a CV and a resume was also discussed, after questions were raised by the Fellows. The Facilitator outlined the key requirements of a CV and indicated that the CV is a mirror reflection of the job applicant. Therefore, CV preparation requires investment of time and effort to reflect one's skills, experience and competence. The Fellows were advised to design job specific CVs rather than generic CVs. According to the Facilitator, once a CV is used for an application, it is not fit to be used for the next application unless it is tailored for the new job. Ultimately, CV writing is a process, not an event.

The ability to interview successfully is a fundamental skill that is often dependent on several personal factors. Therefore, before addressing the key conversation on 'Interviews', the Fellows went through weeks of drawing vision boards- where they articulated and clarified their personal and professional goals. They were also taught lessons in self-pitching and public speaking, where they learned to sell their abilities and strengths. It was only when this groundwork was completed that the main issue of interviews was tackled. The Fellows were given the key considerations for preparing for interviews, both in-person and virtually. Additionally, they were introduced to the Situation, Task required, Action taken and Results (STAR) model in answering interview questions. This was followed by one-on-one mock interview sessions.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

The primary focus of this session was on understanding and defining mental health, factors that affect mental health, the link between mental health and sexual health, and attaining, maintaining and boosting mental health. The Facilitator emphasised that mental health was not defined as 'crazy', 'madness', 'abodam', 'kolomental' or the market mad man or mental illness or a psychiatric disorder. Mental health was defined as being concerned with the health and wellness of the brain. By the end of the session, the Fellows recognised that mental health was as important as physical health as the brain controls memory, decision making, emotions, coordination, thinking, planning etc. The Facilitator revealed that one can have poor mental health with no mental illness, and another can also have good mental health even with the diagnosis of a mental illness. The Fellows shared personal experiences dealing with some of the risk factors of mental health for young people. During the discussion on stress, one Fellow shared having to resort to overeating to cope with stress.

Another Fellow shared the experience of warding off relationship expectations from peers and dealing with issues of low self-esteem, among others. Another topic that engaged the Fellows was on gender-based violence both against males and females. While recognising the need to eradicate violence against women, some Fellows shared that the stigma around males suffering violent attacks from females is an inhibiting factor for males to report even though they also experience abuse.



A screenshot of a Zoom session on Mental health by My Mental Health Matters

Ms. Oluwadayo Adeyemo, a Mental Health Expert, engaging Fellows on mental health during an online session

Within this session, the Fellows were also taken through good documentation practices. They were taught how to effectively take notes, make presentations, write proposals and concept notes. This session was the most extensive. It afforded Fellows a wide range of experiences and exposure.

YoLe TRAINING ON UNFPA PROGRAMMING PROCESSES

It is important that Fellows learn thoroughly about UNFPA operations. As such, the Fellows are provided with a two-day UNFPA immersion workshop. This is an opportunity to introduce the Fellows to the programmatic side of UNFPA's lifesaving work. During the workshop, the Fellows were given insight into various sexual and reproductive health terms and concepts including sexuality, sexual health, sexual rights, reproductive rights among others. They were also exposed to lessons on theories of change, project management, social change, development aid and architecture. In these sessions, the Fellows interacted with different professionals who employed engaging and innovative tools and methods to explain complex concepts in a relative short period of time.

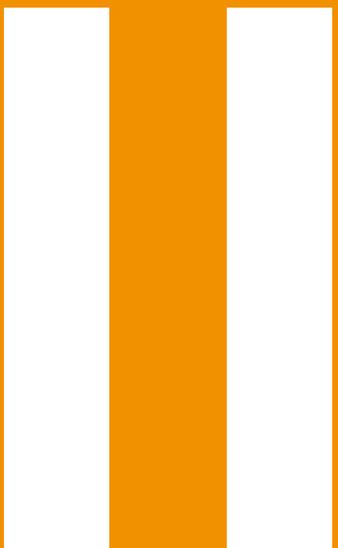


Dr. Esi Awotwi taking Fellows through UNFPA programming



Fellows during the training on UNFPA

SECTION





Product:
 Type:
 Batch number:
 Manufacturing date:
 Expiry date:
 Nominal weight:
 Quantity:
 Store in well ventilated, dry storage conditions away
 from direct sources of heat including sunlight.
 Must be stored at average temperature of 25 C.
 Manufacturer:
 2171 Main & Burdette, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74106, USA
 P.O. Box 1000, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74106, USA

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WORKING WITH UNFPA GHANA

Orientation provided the opportunity for the Fellows to meet and interact with staff members from various units of UNFPA. The staff shared insights into their daily activities and job demands. The Fellows gained a preliminary glimpse into the nature of work of the various units, which guided their decisions of which unit to work with. After five months of intensive training sessions and learning experiences, the Fellows were deployed to the various units within the Country Office (CO) after a rigorous placement process was completed. This process required the Fellows to complete a deployment form with three-unit placement choices arranged in order of preference. The forms were reviewed, and the placements determined by Unit Heads.

After the necessary approval from the Country Representative, the Fellows were successfully deployed to all units in June 2020. Given the Government-determined COVID-19 restrictions, the CO adapted a telecommuting approach to deliver work outputs, which meant that the Fellows had to overcome various challenges to make meaningful contributions in their newly assigned units, while working remotely.

THE OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE (OTR)

Fellows that were assigned to the OTR, worked with the personal assistant of the Country Representative to provide administrative support to the Country Office. Their work included scheduling meetings and appointments, writing speeches, drafting letters, among other tasks that enabled them to learn and understand the management of the Country Office.

THE OPERATIONS UNIT

The Operations Unit comprises of various departments such as finance, procurement, human resources and Information Technology. Fellows assigned to this unit provided support to all the departments under the unit, with specific tasks related to procurements of logistic supplies, Value Added Tax (VAT) reclaims, vendor modification and payments, evaluation and contracting of consultants, processing staff ID cards, assisting with the staff annual leave plan template and many other logistics.

THE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Fellows assigned to the Communications Unit played a key role in creating, protecting and promoting the entire organisation through four main approaches:

- Communication for visibility, awareness creation and advocacy on UNFPA and its programmes;
- Communication to stimulate partnerships and advance the work of UNFPA on women, girls and young people;

- Communication to promote social and behavioural change as a way to achieve social transformation and sustained results;
- Documenting results and best practices as well as sharing knowledge to facilitate sustainable resource flow for the realisation of programme targets.

The Fellows worked with the Representative, the Deputy Representative and under the direct guidance of the Unit Head of Communication and in collaboration with other Programme Officers to showcase the work and achievements of the Country Office using both traditional and modern media (e.g. social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Orange Vibes, Instagram). Most of the Fellows tasks included management of the Country Office's high level events, social media platforms, photography, videography, graphic design. The Fellows assisted in writing reports, news and feature articles as well producing radio and TV documentaries.

THE ADOLESCENT SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (ASRH) UNIT

Fellows assigned to the ASRH Unit worked specifically with the Unit's Programme Officers to implement the Country Office's activities for adolescents and young people.

The Fellows were heavily involved in programme implementation, including idea conceptualisation, preparing procurement requests, mobilisation, reporting and most importantly, spearheading activities through either moderation or facilitation which greatly built their capacity.

THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (RH) UNIT

Fellows in the RH Unit worked closely with Programme Officers and were intensively involved in the planning and execution of activities during the Family Planning Week. They also supported the WAWA ABA* team with the implementation of WAWA ABA related activities in the transition phase of 2020, working with external consultants on improving the web-based platform.

The Fellows were also exposed to the technical aspects of the Country Office's work through supporting the organisation at the 2020 Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) Training and participating in the preparatory meeting for the regional Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Survey.

**Wawa Aba is an innovative platform that allows young people to access sexual and reproductive health services especially family planning services by enabling them to easily identify points of service delivery on a web-based application.*

THE GENDER UNIT

The Gender Unit actively involved the assigned Fellows in the implementation of UNFPA-led programmes and projects such as the Child Marriage Project, the BOAME Project and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Project. With guidance from Programme Officers, the Fellows reviewed documents and advocacy tool-kits and spearheaded activities for the Country Office including the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and the Commemoration of International Day of the Girl Child.



The capacity of the Fellows was built through attending workshops and training sessions which enabled them to confidently manage initiatives such as the Girlz Girlz Power Talk show.

Each of the three Fellows in the unit was assigned a supervisor whom they closely worked with on different activities including drafting of the Annual Child Marriage Report.

THE POPULATION & DEVELOPMENT (P&D) UNIT

Fellows working in the P&D Unit were involved in the planning and organising of high-level events such as the Development Partners Meeting on the 2021 Census and the Partners Learning Forum (PaLef).

The Fellows also updated the activities of implementing partners in the activity trackers, followed up with implementing partners on the progress of activities and supported the Post-Enumeration Survey of the Population and Housing Census. These responsibilities provided the Fellows with a better understanding of development issues, especially within the UN system.

THE FELLOWSHIP SECRETARIAT

Fellows at the Secretariat served as the liaison between the Project Coordinator and the YoLe Fellows. They were responsible for organising activities such as the “In the Shoes of Achievers” sessions with high achieving personalities in Ghana, and the YoLe Fellowship Retreat.

Fellows working in the Secretariat also facilitated the weekly YoLe general meetings where Fellows shared updates from their assigned units and discussed any concerns.

Diligence from the Fellows in the Secretariat enabled the smooth running of the Fellowship activities and ensured effective communication.

YoLe FELLOWS' INITIATIVES

A key component of the Fellowship was the opportunity to innovate and implement activities. The challenges that the pandemic posed only created room for the Fellows to be even more innovative in their ideas and initiatives. The Fellows planned, organised and implemented community engagement activities and leveraged the celebration of various international days to host pertinent conversations related to sexual and reproductive health and rights.



Esenam Amuzu, a Fellow, educating community members on the SGBV toll free number

YOUTH HUMANITARIAN OUTREACHES

This was the flagship activity for the Fellows during the COVID 19 pandemic. The Fellow implemented a series of outreaches called the "Youth Humanitarian SRH Outreaches." The Youth Humanitarian Outreaches utilized a 'door to door' approach to reach out to the most vulnerable. The efforts helped to bridge the gap in access to SRH and SGBV prevention information and services during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The outreaches were held in the cities of Accra and Prampram, as these were identified as hotspots recording high cases of abuse, domestic violence and teenage pregnancies. Communities within these areas that were targeted included Teshie, Labadi, Osu, Jamestown, Lartebiokoshie, Lapaz, Nungua, Tema, Newtown, Dansoman, Shukura, Madina, Korle Bu, Old Ningo and Ayetepah.

AWARENESS CREATION ON SGBV

Fellows shared information on SRH and teenage pregnancy prevention during COVID-19. They also led an anti-SGBV campaign by creating awareness of the activated helpline of the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service. The helpline was available for all individuals to call and report cases of SGBV during the lockdown period and beyond. Over 9,000 adolescents and young people were reached during these outreaches.



A group of Fellows visited the Teshie Clinic and interacted with patients on Covid-19 and SGBV and the toll free line

Additionally, through training and capacity building, UNFPA Ghana empowered five Fellows to take lead in the SGBV response by handling the helpline, which involved providing first hand support and information to SGBV victims and survivors who patronised the helpline

CONNECTING THE DOTS: THE KAYAYEI ASSISTANCE PROJECT (KASPRO)

Ensuring rights and choices for all, the KASPRO initiative was designed to demonstrate workable approaches in response to the challenges and needs of vulnerable groups specifically Kayayei during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The Fellows played a key role in making the project a success.

Supported by Prudential Life Insurance, the project served to protect the Kayayei from Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), helped to maintain their dignity, reduced their dependence on men for food and essential items, and subsequently reduced their vulnerability to SGBV, harmful practices and other gender inequalities which tend to increase during periods of crises. The overall goal of the project was to prevent and minimise the incidence of sexual and gender-based violence as well as sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancies among the vulnerable population called “the Kayayei.” Under the SRHR & SGBV EDUCATION module, the KASPRO provided a cohort of 500 Kayayei with sexual and reproductive health and rights information and education as well information on gender-based violence and harmful practices.

The team delivered 92 Hours of SRHR sessions that covered:

- Values and Sexuality
- Human Rights and Sexuality
- Culture, Society, Sexuality
- Pregnancy & Family Planning
- Puberty
- Sexual and Reproductive Anatomy
- Norms & Peer Influence on Sexual Behaviour
- Violence & Gender-Based Violence
- Consent, Privacy & Integrity
- Communication, Refusal & Negotiation Skills.



Sherrifa Awudu, a Fellow, interacts with young head porters (kayayei) as part of the KASPRO project



Kayayo Transporting Donation Packages from UNFPA



Head Porters (Kayayei) engaged in skills training as part of the KASPRO Project

Under the Skills Training module, the 500 Kayayei under the skills training module were provided with vocational training in business and entrepreneurial skills. Under the Nourishment and Dignity module, the Kayayei were given food, essential items to maintain hygiene as well as free NHIS registration for their health & wellbeing as an entry point for SRHR education.



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KASPRO

Kayaye'i
Assistance
Project

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY 2020

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MENSTRUAL HYGIENE KITS COMMUNITY

In adherence to the COVID-19 protocols, the Fellows reached out to recipients at their respective homes. Fellows were supported by nurses from the Mamobi General Hospital and 20 external volunteers who previously signed up for the outreach. In preparation, all volunteers were added to a Whatsapp group for a series of briefings before the outreach. On the day of the outreach, volunteers and Fellows were grouped into 5 teams with each team having 3 volunteers. The outreach was impactful, exceeding the targets of the teams. The outreach promoted meaningful volunteer participation in the delivery of MHM Education to young girls particularly adolescents.

- 200 bags comprising of sanitary pads, nose masks and hand sanitizers were distributed to the target groups in the communities.
- 200 girls were educated on Menstrual Hygiene Management

FACEBOOK LIVE PANEL DISCUSSION WITH BECCA FOUNDATION

Fellows organised a Facebook live session with award winning musician Becca, in partnership with the Becca Foundation under her #imenstruatetoo Project. The chosen theme “It's Time for Action”, highlighted the urgency for the collective work needed to both change the negative social norms surrounding menstruation and catalyse progress towards empowering women and girls to unlock educational and economic opportunities. The session was moderated by YoLe Fellow, Francis Oko Armah who engaged the panelists on questions related to Menstrual Hygiene.

Panelists for the session included, Becca, Musician and Founder of Becca Hearts Foundation; Dr. Claudia Donkor, Programme Analyst for Reproductive Health & Humanitarian Assistance at UNFPA Ghana; Able Delalie, Founder of Period Matters; George Boateng Ampratwum, Career Guidance at The Happy Girls School Project and Theodora Abaka Acquah, Founder of Naa Adole Foundation.

The Facebook Live session reached over 3,100 Facebook users within one-hour. Suggested key action points discussed included, increasing awareness on menstrual hygiene (MH) and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health, advocating for free menstrual hygiene education in academic institutions, campaigning to remove all luxury taxes on MH products and making available affordable MH products for girls everywhere, To close the successful event, the Moderator engaged the panelists and viewers in a short quiz to test their knowledge on menstrual hygiene.

YOUTH-LED SWOP LAUNCH

UNFPA Youth Fellows successfully led a virtual edition of the “State of World Population” (SWOP) Report launch. The youth-led version was organised to engage young people to understand the changing dynamics of the global population and the key issues that affect the development of women and girls including early and forced child marriage, son preference, female genital mutilation (FGM) and other harmful practices. Over 500 young people were directly engaged online and pledged their support to the theme “Against My Will” to help end violence against women and girls.



Fellows at the Youth-Led SWOP Launch

AFRICAN YOUTH SDG SUMMIT

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions, the organisers of the African Youth SDGs Summit, hosted the third edition virtually with a limited number of local participants attending in-person. The Summit initiated a continental conversation towards the need to focus on the SDGs and young people while combating the COVID-19 pandemic. The main youth plenary session on meaningful youth engagement saw youth activists from the continent discussing how youth engagement could be sustained post COVID to ensure we all work together to achieve the SDGs. The session featured Erica Ehiama, YoLe Fellow from Ghana; Millicent Sethaile from Botswana; Sidibe Aboubacar from Senegal and special guest, Madam Esther Muia, UNFPA Zimbabwe Country Representative. With support from the Country Office, the YoLe Fellows organised a successful side event during the Summit, dubbed the "Condomize Campaign" booth. The Fellows' "Condomize Campaign" booth held fun and edutainment activities. Participants who visited the booth were engaged in a series of fun games such as spin the wheel, 'Kahoot' and dance battles. All games required participants to answer questions correctly to win UNFPA branded prizes. By the end of the session participants had received important knowledge on reproductive health in a fun and engaging way.



Fellows in a group picture at AYSDG Summit



Fellows in a group picture at AYSDG Summit

THE YOLE FELLOWSHIP FUND

During the lockdown and heightened panic phase caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Fellows continued to contribute to UNFPA's humanitarian and community outreach programmes. With inspiration gathered from supporting the life-saving work of UNFPA, the Fellows created the YoLe Fund Project. The Project was in partnership with the Abiola Bawuah Foundation (ABF), a charity-based organisation which works with young girls in schools.

The YoLe Fund Project aimed to sensitise girls on:

- using assertiveness as a weapon in the fight against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV);
- personal hygiene and;
- raising awareness on how to achieve their future ambitions.

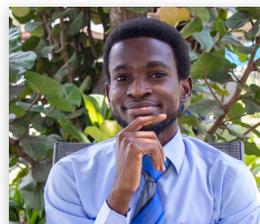
The Project was led by YoLe Fellow, Kobina Markin, and funded by contributions from all the Fellows to give back to society and also contribute to the works of UNFPA. The YoLe Fund Project successfully supported 70 adolescent girls at the Odumse Basic School in Dodowa by providing educational material (schoolbags, clear bags, pencils, pens, erasers), school uniforms and dignity kits (consisting of essential items such as sanitary towels, sanitary pad, underpants, toothbrush and toothpaste) to each girl.



Fellows in a group picture with beneficiaries of the YoLe Fund project at Dodowa

“Before, I knew little about these things, but today, I have learnt a lot. I now know how to calculate my menstrual cycle very well and I have a new pant and pads to be changing when I’m menstruating. Now I’m going to JHS 1 and I already have new JHS uniform to wear so my mother does not have to sew a new one for me and this term I won’t buy exercise books again because now I have a lot. “Oh, God will bless you and I can’t wait to go home and show it to my parents, they will be very happy. This has really energized me to learn more and pass all my exams to become a nurse in future. God richly bless you.”

~Anita (14-year-old Primary 6 pupil & beneficiary of the Fund)



Kobina Markin
(YoLe Fellow & Project Lead)

“This is a huge step for my team and I. The atmosphere of gratitude has driven me to do more after this and we believe that this outreach activity has helped to ensure that the potential of these young girls are preserved and harnessed into desirable outcomes.”



A beneficiary of the YoLe Fund project at the Odumse Basic School at Dodowa, displaying a branded note pad she received



Country Representative, UNFPA Ghana, Mr. Niyi Ojuolape, giving an address at the AYSDG Summit in Accra

CREATING MEMORIES & BUILDING EXPERIENCES

YOLE FELLOWS AT CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, SUMMITS

Conferences and Summits remain a huge part of the United Nations, as they have been instrumental to the work of the United Nations and, of course, to UNFPA. As such, there are many national, regional and international conferences that UNFPA convenes and/or participates in, which had the involvement of the YoLe Fellows.

WHO MEETING ON IMPLEMENTING CSE FOR OUT OF SCHOOL YOUNG

In March 2020, The World Health Organization held a meeting in Geneva to discuss challenges on engaging out of school young people on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). CSE promotes the fundamental principles of a young person's right to education about their bodies, relationships and sexuality, whilst developing the knowledge and skills of young people necessary for fostering gender-equitable relationships and societies.

The meeting, among other focus points discussed the progress on promoting out of school CSE, provided an opportunity for participants to share knowledge on innovation and present best practices to support the way forward. *Sherifa Awudu shared her experience in engaging with out-of-school youth.*

GES STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION IN GHANAIAN SCHOOLS

Esenam Amuzu and Oko Armah participated in the Ghana Education Service Stakeholder Consultation on the Introduction of CSE in Schools. The purpose of the meeting was to engage stakeholders on the way forward, following the backlash from the Ghanaian general public in response to the CSE manual. Esenam confidently spoke during the consultation sharing her views on why CSE was important and critical for young people, urging participants to put morals and sentiments aside and think of what will support the future of the young girl to reach her potential.

EVENING RECEPTION FOR THE NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO GHANA

Jenifer Aniwa was the Master of Ceremony at the evening reception for the Nigerian High Commissioner to Ghana, H.E Michael Abikoye. She also acted as the MC for the Inaugural Meeting of Friends of UNFPA, the official U.S. based non-profit supporting UNFPA.

WORLD MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY

Oko Armah moderated the discussion on World Menstrual Hygiene Day as part of the activities to commemorate Menstrual Hygiene Day which was held by the Becca Foundation.

2020 FAMILY PLANNING WEEK LAUNCH

At the launch of the 2020 Family Planning Week, Delali Tanu delivered a presentation on UNFPA's activity line-up. She also presented the family planning advocacy and grassroots-level work that UNFPA supports.

YOUTH LED SWOP LAUNCH

Despite the outbreak of COVID-19, disrupting activities and stalling progress made in regard to women and girls, UNFPA was still able to celebrate its 50 years of existence alongside 25 years of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme, by launching, the Fund's flagship publication, the "State of World Population" (SWOP) report, titled: "Unfinished Business, the pursuit of rights and choices for all." The report highlights three pertinent issues: female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, and son preference. Following the successful launch globally and in Ghana, UNFPA YoLe Fellows organised a virtual youth led launch of the report, with a call for all-inclusive participation in achieving the ICPD agenda. The youth led version saw young people discussing the theme of the report "Against My Will Defying the Practices That Harm Women and Girls and Undermine Equality" and ways in which young people could meaningfully engage to end all forms of violence against women and girls.

The event brought together representatives from Ghana's National Youth Authority (NYA), National Population Council (NPC), Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG), various youth-led organisations and other individuals passionate about population and development. Fellows took the lead in the various roles from conceptualisation of the concept, invitations, and designing the programme outline. Phanaelle Gnaze moderated the session and Ekow Tachie-Mensah delivered the closing remarks at the Youth Led SWOP Launch.

IN THE SHOES OF ACHIEVERS

In line with the Fellowship's core mandate to provide professional and self-development, innovation and leadership skills building, the Fellows spearheaded a virtual mentorship programme dubbed "In the Shoes of Achievers". The programme identified high-achieving personalities they engaged to gain a wealth of knowledge in leadership and entrepreneurship on a monthly basis.

YOUTH IN AGRIBUSINESS

In collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNFPA, Ghanaian Musician Trigmatic launched the first edition of the Music Speaks Talk Party Series. The forum was part of a series to encourage youth into agriculture, under the theme 'Make We Grow, what we want Chop'. The Agribusiness forum, which was held on the 28th February 2020 at UNFPA's Orange Loft brought together stakeholders and young men and women actively involved in Agribusiness. In a bid to encourage and inspire youth into agriculture, participants discussed how young people could engage in Agribusiness rather than see it as punishment. Together, participants deliberated the issues, challenges and potential solutions that affect the rate at which young people actively get involved in Agribusiness.



A panel including a YoLe Fellow, Seraphine Batse, discussing Youth in Agri Business

Seraphine was joined by high level panelists consisting several reputable people including, Awo Amoabeng of Skin Gourmet; Farouk Yakubu of Royal Green Farms; Mr. Richard Addison of Kent Farms; Cyril Gockel of OG Farms; CJ Biggerman of Agroyard Co. Ltd and Mr. Chris Ibyisintabyo, Sustainable Food Systems Coordinator for WFP (Ghana). The active participation from the audience of agricultural advocates and 'agripreneuers' highlighted the initiative as a successful platform to boost interest in agribusiness amongst Ghana's youth.

YOUTH IMPACT SERIES

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on 7th of May 2020, a series of one-hour e-workshops called the "Youth Impact Series" was launched. The launch was organised by the UN Inter-Agency Group on Youth in Ghana and hosted by UNFPA virtually. The Impact series was specifically targeted at young people to increase their capacity to cope with the stringent public health protocols put in place by the Government during the peak of the pandemic by:

- Increasing young people's understanding of COVID-19;
- Increasing awareness among young people on the prevention of COVID-19 using available resources; and;
- Addressing key challenges affecting young people during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The series brought together young people and key expert speakers to discuss issues in the areas of education, health, entrepreneurship, innovation, and peace, in order to build the capacity of young people to be agents of change in their communities. The virtual series engaged thousands of young people globally and in Ghana. Angela Bortey was a panelist on the 5th edition of the Youth Impact Series.

She spoke on challenges that the youth face which makes them vulnerable and susceptible to commit violence. Angela and other Fellows including, Jennifer Esi Aniwa, Fatahiya Sumaila, Julius Morts, Erica Ehaimah, Esenam Amuzu and Ekow Tachie-Mensah assisted in producing the additional editions of the series.

They played vital roles in the logistics such as designing flyers, sending invitations, reminder emails and Zoom links to speakers and participants.

- Over 350 participants from more than 10 different countries took part in the launch. Countries included Ghana, Nigeria, Switzerland, Kenya, India, China, Japan, and Norway.
- 5 key expert panelists: Sylvia Lopez-Ezra, Ag. UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana; Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Youth Envoy; Aya Chebbi, African Union Youth Envoy; Irem Tumer, Focal Point for Youth Leadership & Participation, UNFPA HQ; and Ceasar Kaba Kogoziga from the Youth Action Movement in Ghana. Moderated by Angela Kwarshie of UNCDF.
- Since streaming the webinar live on YouTube, the video had been viewed over 250 times.



AFRICAN YOUTH SDG SUMMIT

The 3rd African Youth SDGs Summit was held from the 4th -5th of November 2020 at Alisa Hotel, Accra Ghana. The Summit was organised by Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG) alongside UNFPA Ghana, IAYG, the Ghanaian Ministry of Planning, United Nations Ghana, and other key organising partners, with the theme “Securing the 2030 Commitment Beyond the post-COVID-19 Era.”

The theme encouraged that youth, communities and governments must focus on the long-term challenge of catalyzing sustainable development.

The Summit was setup as a hybrid event (virtual and in person). Thousands of young people, business and civil society leaders, and representatives from the United Nations convened virtually from around the world, with estimates of 2,800 participants through direct channels and 15,000 participants through indirect channels. Following public health guidelines, the Summit also hosted 278 participants in person at the Alisa Hotel, Accra Ghana.

The key objectives of the Summit were to:

- Create a platform for all stakeholders to interact and exchange ideas to accelerate actions for the delivery of the SDGs post-COVID-19 era;
- Propose a roadmap for youth engagement on the SDGs in Africa and;
- Identify and scale-up about 10,000 youth-led SDGs solutions by 2030



Erica Ehiamah, a Fellow on a panel discussion on youth engagement during the AYSDG Summit

Sessions featured important topics such as innovation, entrepreneurship and high-tech opportunities for young people, building sustainable public health systems post COVID-19 and issues on gender equality. Erica Ehiamah spoke at the main youth plenary session of the Summit, themed meaningful youth engagement. Youth activists from around the continent joined to discuss how youth engagement could be sustained post COVID. Esenam Amuzu moderated a session on youth and entrepreneurship. Fatahiya Sumaila facilitated a session on self-esteem, assertiveness, and relationships with adolescents. She also moderated the closing Ceremony of the African Youth SDGs.

UNFPA ORANGE RADIO LAUNCH

As part of the activities to commemorate the 2021 International Women’s Day, UNFPA Ghana launched an online-based radio station, Orange Radio, to serve as a platform to give young people the opportunity to speak out on issues of interest, while engaging relevant individuals and groups on broad development issues. The launch was during a virtual Interactive Session with UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador and award-winning journalist formerly with CNN, Ms. Isha Sesay. The session was an opportunity to learn more about her journalistic journey, particularly her coverage of the kidnapping of the Chibok girls, Nigeria as well as her passionate advocacy against violence perpetrated at women and girls. YoLe Fellow Erica Ehiamah hosted the successful launch of the radio station alongside Mr. Jacob Eben, Communications Advisor at UNFPA West and Central Africa Regional Office.



Erica Ehiamah, a Fellow on a panel discussion on youth engagement during the AYSDG Summit







SECTION



GRADUATION OF YoLe FELLOWS COHORT II

The official Graduation Ceremony for the Second Cohort of the YoLe Fellowship Programme was held on the 11th of July 2021 at the Alisa Hotel, Accra Ghana. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the event hosted a limited number of in person guests and was livestreamed.

The evening was not only a congratulatory farewell to the Second Cohort but also an opportunity to launch the 'YoLe Alumni Network' and celebrate the Commemoration of the '2021 World Population Day'. The evening was marked with highlights of the Fellows' achievements and experiences, spoken word, poetry and the presentation of certificates. The Second Cohort showcased choreography to mark the occasion and officially launch the Alumni Network.

The three-hour dinner event was welcomed and moderated by Ms. Adjoa Yenyi, National Programme Analyst, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Unit – UNFPA. Guests were entertained by music from the 'Lipstick Band'. Mr. Michael Ige, the Programme Manager delivered a presentation on the Fellowship Programme, which highlighted the objectives, training, workshop content, and activities undertaken by the Second Cohort as well as their achievements and next steps. A screening of the YoLe Documentary followed, perfectly capturing the precious memories of the entire Fellowship.

Guests applauded the contributions and impact that the Fellows, dubbed the "COVID-19 Heroes" managed to achieve amidst the pandemic. The Fellows were presented their certificates of completion by the Deputy Country Representative of the UNFPA Ghana, Dr. Agnes Kayitankore, before the official Launch of the Alumni Network. Mr. Niyi Ojuolape, Country Representative of UNFPA Ghana congratulated the Fellows for their globally recognised contributions and resilience. He expressed his joy and pride in seeing them achieve greater heights through job placements in the development sector and gaining admissions with scholarships for further studies.



Graduation Ceremony in Pictures





WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE FELLOWS?

After the learning experience, most Fellows venture into amazing opportunities. From pursuing advance degrees, job opportunities with reputable organisations to starting their own initiatives, Fellows continue to prove that with the right investments in young people the best can be expected.



Sherifa Awudu



Lydia Eshun



Sarah Djirion

At the end of the second cycle of YoLe, Sherifa Awudu won a full scholarship to pursue her master's degree in Human Rights, Gender and Conflict Resolution at the Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam. During the Fellowship, Lydia Eshun gained admission to Brunel University London to study MSc. Public Health and Health Promotion. Sarah Djirion gained admission with a partial scholarship to a master's degree in Business Administration at the University of Quebec at Chicoutimi, Canada.



Oko Armah



Phanaelle Gnaze



Ekow Tachie-Mensah

Francis Oko Armah and Phanaelle Gnaze returned to University to each complete their bachelor's degree in Public Relations at the Ghana Institute of Journalism, Phanaelle also secured the role at Crossroads International. Ekow Tachie-Mensah now works with Education for Sub-Saharan Africa.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE FELLOWS?

After the learning experience, most Fellows venture into amazing opportunities. From pursuing advance degrees, job opportunities with reputable organisations to starting their own initiatives, Fellows continue to prove that with the right investments in young people the best can be expected.



Ivana Amponsah



Seraphine Batse

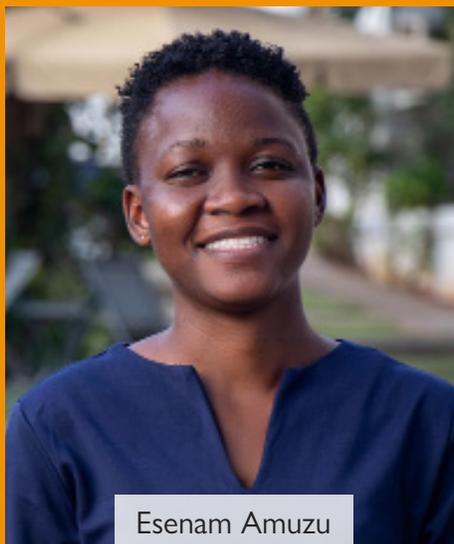


Erica Ehiamah

Ivana Amponsah and Seraphine Aku Batse will both be starting a Professional Certificate Programme in Project Management at the Project Management Institute, Pennsylvania and Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration respectively. Erica Ehiamah secured a scholarship to pursue higher education at the Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University in Germany.



Bomke Ima-Ighor



Esenam Amuzu



Fatahiya Sumaila

Fatahiya Sumaila, Bomke Ima-Ighor and Esenam Amuzu were retained by UNFPA. Esenam and Bomke, currently provide support to the Orange Support Centre and Fatahiya assists the ASRH Unit.



Jennifer Aniwa



George Koranteng



Rachel Obidiah

Jennifer Esi Aniwa, George Koranteng and Rachel Obidiah currently work for UNAIDS, UNESCO and the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana respectively.



Angela Bortey



Julius Mortsii



Delali Tanu

Angela Bortey works with the UN Migration Agency while Julius Mortsii and Delali Tanu with Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) and Intelligent Capital respectively.



Ayodele Matthew



Kobina Markin



Eze Uzochukwu

After the Fellowship, Ayodele Matthew, Kobina Markin and Eze Uzochukwu provided support to Ghana's 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC).

YoLe Secretariat



Michael Ige
YoLe Programme Manager



Irene Danquah
HR Assistant



Aurelien Nessere N'dou
Facilitator's Assistant

LESSONS LEARNED

SUSTAINABILITY CONSCIOUSNESS & PLANNING

UNFPA Ghana's long-term goal is to institutionalise the YoLe Fellowship Programme and expand youth access to the United Nations system in Ghana by inspiring sister organisations to become more involved or duplicate this innovation. Owing to the vast scope of projected activities, the Fellowship is resource-intensive and has demanded creative and progressive thinking about sustainability from management. In various ways, all the following good practices are reflective of and have contributed towards the sustainability of the Fellowship. With future cohorts, UNFPA Ghana has initiated discussions with potential partners regarding innovative and cost-efficient alliances and arrangements for cost-sharing and material, as well as in-kind support to enable as many young people in Ghana to benefit from the Fellowship as possible.

HANDS-ON PARTICIPATION

The Fellowship Programme encourages hands on participation as the most effective method to build the capacity of the Fellows. To stir up leadership qualities in all Fellows, staff of UNFPA Ghana provided opportunities to implement both internal and external programmes through active involvement.

INNOVATION

Innovation is one of the main principles and objectives of the Fellowship. Having so many young people in a United Nations organization was a major innovation. In addition to nurturing a culture of critical thinking among Fellows and encouraging them to use new technologies for advocacy, UNFPA Ghana worked with Space Ghana to renovate an old store-room into an innovation hub that functioned as a creative workspace-cum- recreational facility that allowed for individual inspiration as well as collaborative work. The Fellows were also encouraged to create, innovate and lead their own initiatives which yielded some of the projects outlined

CONCLUSION

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Second Cohort of the YoLe Fellowship Programme, was a life-transforming journey. Innovative solutions were largely employed to build the capacity of the Fellows and to actively engage them in the implementation of programmes of the Country Office. The Fellowship Programme served as an opportunity for all 21 Fellows to meaningfully contribute to activities undertaken by the Country Office to achieve the Three Transformative Goals:

- zero unmet need for family planning
- zero preventable maternal mortality and
- zero incidences of sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices.

The YoLe Fellowship Programme presents a priceless opportunity for Fellows to engage and create an enabling environment that allows for creativity, as well as a common ground for mutually respectful dialogues and mentorship.

With such a success, UNFPA Ghana looks forward to its Third Cohort of Fellows and changing the world one young person at a time.



The UNFPA Ghana Country Representative and Deputy Country Representative,
Mr. Niyi Ojuolape and Dr. Agnes Kayitankore

NOTICE
PLEASE WEAR
FACE MASK
THANK YOU



The Covid-1



19 Heros!

MEET

THE

2020

YOLE

FELLOWS

ANGELA BORTEY



Twitter: @B_teley

LinkedIn: Angela Bortey

Interests: Peace & Security ||
Meaningful Youth Engagement ||
Gender Activist || Sexual &
Reproductive Health & Rights ||
Feminist || Communications &
Media || Food || Travel

Angela BORTEY is a development communicator with aspirations of becoming a philanthropist and criminologist. She holds a Degree in Communications Studies and just completed her Masters in Conflict, Peace and Security. Angela is a youth activist and advocate. Through her activism, she has been able to set up a youth advisory committee for the Ghana Health Service which she serves as the National Coordinator. As a feminist and advocate of gender equality, Angela leads the 'SheDecides Movement' in Ghana. She has also served as a strong force of the General Assembly (Student Parliament) of the Ghana Institute of Journalism and a pioneer member of the Debaters Club. During her time as a YoLe Fellow, Angela led the Media Team to assist the Country Office Communications Team in implementing several innovative virtual initiatives, notably the 'Youth Impact Series'. She was also involved in several outreaches, and served as a liaison between Fellows and the Secretariat and Management.

Angela hopes to become a 'Multi- Trillionaire' to create impact and change in the lives of people and young



Ayodele Matthew OJO



Twitter: @Ayomatthew

LinkedIn: Ayodele Matthew

Interests: Adventure || Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights || Showbiz & Entertainment || Youth Development || Politics || Spoken Word & Poetry || Making money || Volunteerism

Ayodele Matthew OJO aspires to impact positively as many lives as possible. He holds a Bachelors of Business Administration in Accounting from Zenith University College, Ghana. Prior to the Fellowship, he attended a Sexuality and Leadership Fellowship training held in Lagos by Action Health Incorporated. This training informed and broadened his perspective on SRHR issues. Whilst attending University, Ayodele held a few leadership positions. He was elected the 'Acting Organizing Secretary' for the International Students Association. He was also appointed as the 'Assistant Protocol H.O.D' and later became the 'Protocol H.O.D' of a student fellowship on campus. Ayodele volunteered with 'Charity Lounge Lagos' as a UN Youth Volunteer during the UN week in 2012. In addition, he completed a 3-month voluntary service at 'Immaculate Heart Orphanage', Lagos. Ayodele considers his experience being a YoLe Fellow as a springboard to working more in the advocacy and humanitarian sectors. As a Fellow, he worked with the Operations Unit on invoice and payment tracking. He also moderated the 'Condomize



Bomke Ima-Ighor

Twitter: @ImaBomke

LinkedIn: Bomke Ima-Ighor

Interests: Activism and Advocacy || Gender || Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights || Youth Development || Traveling || Cooking || Public Speaking



Bomke IMA-IGHOR holds a degree in English and literary studies and certifications in public administration and technology studies. She has two years of experience in radio and over five years of experience in public speaking and volunteering. In her free time, she volunteers as a graphic designer, and also writes, Bomke has written articles on a number of topics including gender discrimination, sexual abuse, child marriage. She has written her first book, which is yet to be published. Bomke worked with the UNFPA Ghana as a YoLe Fellow, to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every child birth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. As a Fellow, Bomke was a part of the Outreach Team, which carried out more than five community outreaches, reaching over 1000 people amidst the coronavirus pandemic. As part of the Gender Unit, she also led a team in organizing the '16 Days of Activism 2020'. Bomke provided administrative support and assisted in gestating the celebration of the 'International Day of the Girl Child 2020'. She was the Team Lead working together with team members to have a successful '2021 International Women's Day' celebration with various activities to commemorate the day. She also was a part of the BOAME team which created the BOAME app, managing the 'Orange Call Center' and Shelter Home in the fight against SGBV. In the future, Bomke aspires to be a Consultant for United Nations agencies, top global firms and NGOs. She aspires to become a gender activist and an entrepreneur known for developing sustainable solutions towards tackling global issues, Bomke also hopes to obtain a master degree in Gender Studies.



Delali Adwoa Tanu



Twitter: @DelaliTanu

LinkedIn: Delali Tanu

Interests: Youth Development
|| Sexual and Reproductive
Health& Rights || Gender and
Youth Advocacy|| Community
Development || Literacy ||
Leadership || Law || Writing

Delali Adwoa TANU is a development enthusiast. She holds a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration from Ashesi University. During her undergraduate studies Delali volunteered with "A New Dawn", a community development initiative, and conducted ethnographic research towards uncovering the hindrances to academic achievement in girls in the Berekuso comnity and designed a curriculum to guide the mentoring programme. The volunteer experience birthed her passion for youth and community development. Delali has since volunteered and interned with "Young Innovation Leaders" (YIL), UNDP and Beats Foundation. During her time as an YoLe Fellow, she contributed to the planning of the UNFPA '2020 State of World Population Report Launch' and the '2020 Family Planning Week Commemoration'. Driven by creating a fairer society, Delali is passionate about protecting and advancing human rights, gender equality and youth development. She plans to pursue a Masters' Degree in Development Studies and work as a Consultant with the United Nations.



Esenam Amuzu

Twitter: @esinamamuzu

LinkedIn: Esenam Amuzu

Interests: Volunteerism || International Development || Youth || Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights || Adolescent Girls & Women Empowerment || Sports || Communication || Photography



Esenam AMUZU is a passionate and dynamic youth advocate with over five years' experience in sexual and reproductive health rights and youth development advocacy. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications Studies from the Ghana Institute of Journalism. Esenam is a member of Curious Minds Ghana, a youth-led advocacy organisation working towards children and youth development through the media, where she hosts a youth radio programme, called "Gems of Our Time". Esenam loves to mentor adolescent girls and volunteers for several organizations including PPAG. She is also a member of the Youth Advisory Board of the Ghana SRHR Alliance for Young People. She was one of the young leaders selected to represent youth voices at the European Development Days in Brussels 2017 and a Women Deliver Young Leader (class of 2018). Esenam played a key role while engaging with UNAIDS under the "Uproot Campaign" which sought to address barriers that prevent young people from accessing HIV information and services. She also serves as the youth representative on the Steering Committee of the Adolescent Girls Programme funded by the Canadian Government. Leveraging on her skills in community mobilization, as a YoLe Fellow, Esenam worked with the ASRH unit specifically working on the Adolescent Girls Programme and the UN Youth Group. She co-led several community outreaches especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring that unplanned and unwanted pregnancies, STIs and SGBV are mitigated in our society. She co-led activities for the '2020 International Youth Day' celebrations, the 3rd African Youth SDG Summit and also moderated a session on Youth and Entrepreneurship during the summit. She also played an active role in the roll out of the AGPs "Cube Convo Discourse" where they engaged adolescent Muslim girls on SRH and assertiveness sessions. Post Fellowship, Esenam hopes to seek postgraduate studies in International Development. With her academic background and experience she aspires to be a Development Consultant working to support adolescent girls and youth development. Her dream is to see a world where every girl can dream and be what she wants to be and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



Esi Jennifer Aniwa



Twitter: @EsiAniwa

LinkedIn: Jennifer Esi Aniwa

Interests: Volunteerism ||
MC || Digital Media || Gender
Equality & Youth Activism ||
International Relations ||
Gardening || Blogging

Esi Jennifer ANIWA is a young dynamic aspiring Development Communications Practitioner. While reading Psychology and Theatre Arts at the University of Ghana, she volunteered as a journalist at Radio Universe 105.7FM station, where she had the opportunity to host the 'Good Health Show' reaching over 100,000 students weekly, on health education. Her passion for helping young people fulfill their potential led her to volunteer with the NGO, "College for Ama", through which she mentored over 50 deprived adolescent girls to attain tertiary education while empowering them on sexual and reproductive health, grooming and career goals. As a YoLe Fellow and with the support of the Communications Team, Esi presented '5 Orange Vibes'- a weekly UNFPA Ghana news bulletin on UNFPA Ghana's Youtube channel. She also provided content for the Country Office's website and created daily content for the Country Office's Twitter and Facebook pages which resulted in an astronomical increase in followers and engagement.

For Esi, communication is a powerful tool for creating change and shaping behaviour in the society. Esi therefore wants to use the power of communication to help in attaining the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



Ekow Tachie-Mensah

Twitter: @__ekow

LinkedIn: Ekow Tachie-Mensah

Interests: Youth Leadership ||
Gender Equality || International
Development || Strategic
Communication



Ekow TACHIE-MENSAH is a Ghanaian young leader dedicated to effecting social change and improving people's lives. He graduated from Central University with First Class Honours in Communication Studies. Prior to the Fellowship, Ekow worked with the European Union Election Observation Mission during Ghana's 2020 elections. As a YoLe Fellow, he led a team in organizing the first virtual youth-led "State of World Population Report" and provided technical support to the "National Population Council" in organizing a Twitter chat to mark World Population Day in 2020. Ekow is passionate about gender mainstreaming and inclusion. He is a "2020 Women Deliver" Young Leader, working in advancing the health and well-being of women and girls. He also volunteers with the Youth Action Movement to advocate for the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of young people. After the Fellowship, Ekow wants to work as a Consultant for the United Nations and top global firms. He aspires to



Erica Ehiamah



Twitter: @korkorerica

LinkedIn: Erica Ehiamah

Interests: Development
Communication || Activism ||
Media

Erica EHIAMAH holds a Bachelors in Communications Studies from the Ghana Institute of Journalism. During her undergraduate studies, she served three years at RadioGJI as a reporter, audio editing trainer, and host of her show, 'Millennials in Focus', with the aim of highlighting young people and their role in achieving the SDGS. Erica is a trained D.W. Akademie Fellow on Media Development, Online Journalism and Audience Research. She also served as the Head of Research for the Youth Newsroom sponsored by UNESCO during the World Press Freedom Day 2018. Her passion for women and girls ignited after she started volunteering with Curious Minds Ghana; a youth-led organization that promotes the development of young people through grassroots and radio engagement. Erica's passion in providing humanitarian assistance led her to work in some organizations such as the UNHCR Ghana, The Hunger Project Ghana, and UNICEF Ghana as a U-Report Champion in 2019. In 2020, Erica was selected as a "SheDecides 25x25 Generation of Equality Fellow" to advance the fundamental right of girls and women to make their own choices about their bodies. As a YoLe Fellow, Erica worked at the Office of the Country Representative and provided administrative assistance for effective programming. She also worked as a member of the Communications Unit by developing strategies and plans to promote the visibility of the organization. Erica also worked in a 4-member team to handle an SGBV Helpline during the pandemic, in collaboration with DOVVSU. Erica considers the Fellowship as a great opportunity to hone her skills to understand the UN system and improve her network as she aspires to work in the United Nations as a Development Communications Officer.



Emmanuel Uzochukwu EZE

Twitter: @Eclipseze94

LinkedIn: Emmanuel Eze

Interests: Human Rights ||
Youth Development || Gender
Equality|| Programming & Cod-
ing || Soccer || Politics



Emmanuel Uzochukwu EZE holds a Bachelors of Business Administration in Accounting from Zenith University College, Ghana. Prior to this, in 2017, he acquired a certification in Business Management from the Association of Business Executives in the United Kingdom. During his undergraduate studies, Emmanuel served as an organizing secretary for International Student Affairs of the Student Representative Council for which he was awarded most proactive Student Officer for two consecutive semesters. He also volunteered with the International Student Association of Ghana during various outreaches. Emmanuel has over three years' experience in finance auditing, business management, web development and accounting for annual net income for organizations such as Developing Unity and Nurturing Knowledge (DUNK), Fortune Oil and Gas and BP Oil, for which he held leadership positions and played active roles. These experiences helped him to develop various attributes and interpersonal skills such as adaptability and problem solving skills.

Emmanuel is enthusiastic about reaching adolescent boys and girls with adequate Sexual and Reproductive Health information and services. This has led to his participation in over ten outreaches that reached over 5,000 people within Accra in the course of being a YoLe Fellow.



Fatahiya Sumaila



Twitter: @fs_2106

LinkedIn: Fatahiya Sumaila

Interests: Public Health || International Development || Gender Equality || Women Empowerment || Youth Advocacy and Engagement || Music || Movies || Adventure

Fatahiya SUMAILA is a Social Work with Sociology graduate from the University of Ghana with a total of over five years' experience in consulting in the areas of international development, Sexual & Gender-Based (SGBV) and Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH) advocacy and programming and, online publication. Fatahiya has volunteered with the Ark Foundation in Ghana, where she worked on the Anti-Violence Program which includes a Crisis Response Center, a shelter for abused women and girls and a counseling center, providing integrated services and support to victims and survivors of abuse. She has also volunteered her time with the House of St. Francis, a residential treatment facility for alcoholic and drug addicts. As a YoLe Fellow, Fatahiya worked with the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Unit, specifically on UBRAF activities and the Adolescent Girls' Programme. Her passion in supporting the thematic areas and raising awareness of the UNFPA earned her the award "Social Media Influencer of the UNFPA West and Central Africa Region" in the second quarter of 2020. Her achievements at UNFPA also include co-leading the organizing team of the 3rd edition of the African Youth Sustainable Development Goals Summit. Fatahiya was also part of a core team that planned the main State of World Population Report Launch as well as the youth-led version which was virtual and the first of its kind.

Fatahiya aspires to be a Public Health Expert who will contribute to innovative health solutions and influence global health policies. She hopes to achieve this through further studies in public health and continuous advocacy work.



Francis Oko Armah

Twitter: @TheOkoArmah

LinkedIn: Francis Oko Armah

Interests: Activism & Advocacy ||
Meaningful Youth Engagement ||
Gender || Sexual & Reproductive
Health & Rights || Youth Devel-
opment || Communications &
Media || Food || Nature



Francis Oko ARMAH is a youth development practitioner with over eight years of experience in Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights programming and advocacy. Within the context of international development, his interests are meaningful youth engagement, gender and communications. Francis' knowledge of Communications Studies extends from the Ghana Institute of Journalism. He is the Ghana Youth Focal Point for FP2020 and a YoLe Fellow who led the Family Planning Week celebrations 2020 and organized the Youth2Youth Webinar for World Population Day with participants from Ghana, Togo & Benin. He also led Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)/ Family Planning (FP)/Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)/HIV and COVID-19 Humanitarian and Community Outreaches reaching over 500 people. This was achieved with the support of the Office of the Country Representative, Reproductive Health, ASRH units and YoLe Outreach Team. Prior to joining UNFPA YoLe Fellowship, Francis was the Youth Programme Consultant for Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA), where with the support of the team and supervisors, he organized 3 major youth programme events on HIV & SRHR, engaging over 3000 youth delegates at the International Conference on HIV & STIs in Africa (ICASA 2019). Francis has managed several community projects on Women's Rights and Gender and contributed to fundraising efforts on different grants over \$50, 000 USD. He has worked in different capacities and projects with Marie Stopes Ghana, Ipas Ghana, DKT Ghana and Curious Minds Ghana. He worked with Mastercard Foundation as one of three Youth Engagement Champions who led the consultations on the Meaningful Youth Engagement and Gender papers building up to the Young Africa Works Strategy. Francis aspires to be a Thought Leader in International Development with a focus on global health and gender development. After the Fellowship, he will continue his studies at the Ghana Institute of Journalism and hopes to use his skills to enhance SRHR and SGBV response in Ghana and beyond.



George Koranteng



Twitter: @The_Grey1000

**LinkedIn: George Kumi
Koranteng Danso**

**Interests: Visual Artist ||
HeForShe**

George KORANTENG is a graduate of KNUST with a Bachelors degree in Industrial Arts. George is a two time winner of the "Ghana Photo Challenge" (Phone category). He is also a multi-skilled artist with over four years of experience in photography, videography, graphic design and hyper-realistic drawing. He is also a professional with a demonstrated history of working with diverse teams in multicultural environments to improve the lives of people and create value for stakeholders. As a YoLe Fellow assigned to the Communication Unit, George was instrumental in developing videos that communicate the mandate areas of the Country Office. Using his skill in videography, George was the Editor and Director of '5 Orange Vibes' which is shared on UNFPA Ghana's Youtube channel weekly. In telling the stories of UNFPA Ghana's response towards COVID-19, he has also assisted the communications team of the United Nations in Ghana and UNAIDS in telling the stories of some important events such the launch of "UN @75" and the UNDSG's visit to Ghana. George also contributed immensely to the "Kayayei Assistance Project" which has transformed the lives of about 500 Kayayei. George aspires to work with the United Nations as a photojournalist.



Ivana Ewurama Amponsah

Twitter: @lv_amp

LinkedIn: ivana-amponsah

Interests: Leadership || Education
|| Law || Meaningful Youth Engagement
|| Community Development
|| Women Empowerment || Volunteering
|| Mentorship || Mental Health & SGBV Advocacy
|| Agribusiness || Languages & Culture



Ivana Ewurama AMPONSAH graduated with a First Class Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in French and Political Science from the University of Ghana, Legon. Ivana is a Ghanaian young leader with over five years of experience in initiating and implementing programs and projects in youth empowerment and community development with a special focus on Mentorship, Leadership, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health, Gender Based Violence, Mental Health and Women Empowerment. She has worked with organisations in Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and France, including 'The HuD Group Ghana', 'AIESEC' and 'The Springboard Roadshow Foundation'. As a YoLe Fellow, she worked with UNFPA to promote the rights of women and girls. She worked with her colleagues to organise an outreach to sensitise young people on SGBV during the 'Lockdown' period as well as engaging approximately one hundred Kayayei and child marriage survivors under the "Kayayei Leadership and Entrepreneurship Fair", organised by PAYD Ghana in November 2020. Aside from working professionally with UNFPA Ghana, Ivana continued to work actively with fifty girls in Old Ningo, a rural community in Ghana through "The Ewura Initiative", an initiative she established in 2018. This initiative is dedicated to engaging, educating and economically empowering adolescent girls in rural and peri-urban communities to become wellrounded ethics-based leaders with a spirit of volunteerism for community development. Ivana also volunteers with the 'HuD Group Ghana' to organise events and initiate projects that are aimed at developing emerging and established leaders. Ivana aspires to continually develop herself professionally and academically to become a Thought Leader in Leadership and Youth Development and a renowned legal practitioner in Family Law. She hopes to use these skills to effectively promote and protect the rights and interests of young people, especially adolescent girls in deprived areas.



Julius Mortszi



Twitter: @juliusmortszi

LinkedIn: Julius Mortszi

Interests: Digital Communication || Documentary and Street Photography || Nursing || Health Volunteerism || Anime

Julius MORTSI holds a Diploma in Nursing from the Nurses Training College, Ho Ghana. As a sexual and reproductive health and rights advocate and an avid storyteller, Julius captures images that create online conversations to engender social change. His works have been featured on "The International Center of Photography #ICPCConcerned: Global Images for Global Crisis", Agora Images, and the "2019 Accra Photo Week". He also volunteers with Zena Foundation, assisting to provide quality education to children from poor and deprived homes. As a YoLe Fellow working in the Communication Unit, Julius was in charge of the country office graphic designs works and taking photographs of all events and creating visual content for UNFPA Ghana social media platforms. He provided support to the production of "5 Orange Vibes", a weekly video reportage of UNFPA's activities over the week. He provided communication support to the United Nations in Ghana communication group through photography during the UN's Deputy Secretary General (Amina J. Mohammed) visit to Ghana, and the UN in Ghana 75th anniversary launch. He also had the opportunity to work other sister agency like UNAIDS, and UNDP, UNHCR on different project. He believes visuals serve as proof to the existence of reality of a particular moment. Julius aspires to be a nurse photojournalist without borders.



Lydia Eshun

Twitter: @ly_eshun

LinkedIn: Lydia Eshun

Interests: Public Health & Health Promotion || Development Communication || Women Empowerment || Children & Youth Development || GBV || Volunteerism || Community



Lydia ESHUN holds a Bachelors of Business Administration in Health Service Management from the University of Ghana, Legon, After ten months as a UNFPA Youth Leader, Lydia was awarded admission into the United Kingdom's prestigious Brunel University, London to study a postgraduate degree in Public Health and Health Promotion. Prior to joining the Fellowship, Lydia completed her National Service at Parliament as a Brand Communication Associate. She also volunteered at "Alliance for Development" where she shared her great networking skills and her passion for volunteering and community service.

Having a personal experience of abuse and violence, Lydia will someday love to work with WHO, UNICEF or UNFPA reaching out a helping hand to children and women. She firmly believes no child or woman deserves to be put through pain.



Kobina Brako Markin



Twitter: @KobinaMarkin

LinkedIn: Kobina Markin

Interests: International
Languages || Public Speaking
|| Music || Social Policy

Kobina Brako MARKIN is a graduate from the University of Ghana. He holds a degree in Psychology with Adult Education and Human Resource Studies. During his first degree, Kobina served as a Congress Member of the "James Topp Nelson Yankah Hall Congress" (popularly called TF), where he was adjudged 'Best Floor Representative' for the 2016/2017 Academic Year. Kobina also served as an Executive Member of the University Christian Fellowship during the last 2 years of his degree programme. Kobina's passion for matters of the United Nations resulted in him volunteering with "Life-Link Ghana" during the 2016, 2017 and 2018 LTMUN (Life-Link Tertiary Model UN) conferences. Furthermore, Kobina participated in the 2016 MUN4UN Youth Assembly in New York, where he received an "Outstanding Delegate" Award for making valuable contributions during committee sessions. As a YoLe Fellow, Kobina Markin provided administrative support that was instrumental to the production of some key documents pertinent to discussions held in-house (amongst only UNFPA staff) and with partners of UNFPA. Two of such reports are the "MTR/PaLeF/Review and Planning Meeting Report" (held on 30th September) and the "2020 Review/2021 Planning Meeting Report"; which were both full-day discussions. With his vision of becoming a Social Policy Analyst in the future, Kobina is working towards pursuing a postgraduate degree in 2021. This will help him gain the needed knowledge and experience to launch a challenging career.



Phanaelle Gnaze

Twitter: @phanaelle_gnaze

LinkedIn: Phanaelle Gnaze

Interests: Peace Advocacy ||
Bilingual || Sexual & Reproduc-
tive Health & Rights || Food ||
Development Communication



Phanaelle GNAZE is a Bilingual Secretaryship HND holder (French and English) currently studying for a Bachelors degree in Communication Studies with a focus on Public Relations, at the Ghana Institute of Journalism. As a YoLe Fellow, she led the planning of activities (outreaches) reaching over 2000 people to create awareness, share information and provide services during and after the Family Planning Week. Phanaelle is also an entrepreneur with five years of experience in event planning and organizing, sales, and administration. She was the president of the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) club where she focused on mobilizing resources to support other refugee students and citizens of Ghana. She believes in creating worth and assisting young people to strive for success while mentoring them and leveraging on their skills and talents to produce tangible results. Phanaelle aspires to be a Development Communication Strategist, a decision that was made as a result of her experiences over the years due to ineffective communication. She believes ineffective communication has led to altercations among people, conflict amongst groups and full-blown wars that have brought about social and political instability to once burgeoning states like Côte D'Ivoire, where she originally hails from. She hopes to use her knowledge in Communications to foster peace through conflict resolution.



Rachel Obidiah



Twitter: @obidiah Rachel

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Interests: Population and Development || Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights || Youth || Gender || Volunteerism & Community Engagement || International Relations || Philanthropy || Communication || Nature and Beauty || Sports || God

Rachel OBIDIAH holds a Bachelors degree in Political Science and Archaeology from the University of Ghana, Legon. As a YoLe Fellow, Rachel was stationed in the Population and Development Unit at the Country Office, where she assisted with data and development issues in areas of youth development, maternal mortality, child births, training, research as well as monitoring and evaluation. Rachel assisted to successfully launch the Youth Led version of the "State of the World Population". She actively contributed towards the success of the "Development Partners Meeting on the 2021 Ghana Census". She also assisted in organising and planning the Review and Planning Meeting for the Country Office. Rachel is a mentor and a member of the DAFI student network Ghana Chapter, where she assists in organizing donations, mentorship and health screening exercises. As part of her contribution towards the COVID-19 response strategy, she succeeded in organising a door to door community outreach in areas of Sexual Gender Based Violence, Teenage Pregnancy, HIV, Family Planning and Adolescent and Sexual Reproductive Health. After the Fellowship Programme, Rachel aspires to consult for the United Nations and other international organizations or firms. Rachel aspires to be an International Development Consultant and an Entrepreneur working towards achieving the SDGs and the AU Agenda 2063 with the greater aim of solving global issues.



Sarah Grace Djirion

Twitter: @Sarahdjirion

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Interests: Gender Equality ||
Sexual & Reproductive Health
& Rights || Volunteerism ||
Languages || Women
Empowerment



Sarah Grace DJIRION graduated with a First Class Honors in Banking and Finance, from Wisconsin International University College (Ghana Campus). Her belief in Education for All, especially marginalized Women & Girls, stimulated her to strive in acquiring high and quality education to positively impact her community. Sarah became a beneficiary of the "Albert Einstein Refugee Scholarship"- DAFI CLUB from UNHCR and served as the first female President. In her role, she was exposed to various experiences in leadership where she led and maximized teams' efforts to provide SHR & SGBV education to underprivileged communities. She is also an Entrepreneur at Tech Startup Company, "Klingbo", whose vision is to become Africa's leading learning management system and school management system For more information visit www.klingbo.com. As a YoLe Fellow and gender advocate, Sarah worked to deliver a world where every person's potential is fulfilled. Sarah provided administrative support and assisted in conceptualising the celebration of the "International Day of the Girl Child 2020", "16 Days of Activism" and providing logistical help in implementing all Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) activities. Sarah aspires to further her postgraduate education in Business Administration at L'Universite de Quebec in Chicoutimi, Canada while exploring all aspects of entrepreneurship and embracing new opportunities of life.



Sherifa Awudu



Twitter: @cheryphat19

LinkedIn: Sherifa Awudu

Interests: Gender || Children & Youth Development || Gender Transformative Approaches || Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights || Mental Health || Nutrition & Wellbeing || Travel

Sherifa AWUDU is a Women Deliver Young Leader (Class of 2018) and an OKP Scholar currently pursuing her Masters in Human Rights, Gender and Conflict Resolution with Erasmus University's Institute of Social Studies. Once completed, she aspires to pursue Law. Sherifa is a Development Practitioner, Gender and SRHR Advocate and an international trainer in (youth) leadership development. Born and raised in Ghana, she has over 8 years experience in youth development and engagement. She has worked with and trained young people in over 10 countries across the world with specific interests in young people, children below 5, teen mothers as well as survivors of abuse. Prior to joining the Fellowship, Sherifa worked with "Curious Minds Ghana" as a Programmes Assistant in the Northern Region of Ghana where she oversaw Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights projects like "Get Up Speak Out" (GUSO). She also Co-Founded the NGO, "Impact Aid Africa", and served with UNFPA's decentralised office in Tamale as a National Service Personnel from 2018-2019. Sherifa continues to work as a youth empowerment and SRHR Consultant with "Dance4life International", a Dutch Organization based in the Netherlands. During the Fellowship, Sherifa worked with the ASRH Unit, working on the activities of the UBRAF and Norway projects. Sherifa is an innovation catalyst that seeks to facilitate educational solutions that promote authenticity and empower individual and collective action. In the coming years, Sherifa intends to do more consultancy work in the field of Human Rights and Law whilst globally establishing herself as an expert in the field of Sexuality, Gender and Human Rights. With her professional and academic background, she will explore the field of artificial Intelligence with regards to International Law and Human Rights.



Seraphine Aku Batse

Twitter: @MissBatse

LinkedIn: Seraphine Aku Batse

Interests: Youth Engagement ||
Community Development ||
Volunteering || SRHR & SGBV
Advocacy || Gender || Women
Empowerment || Agribusiness ||
Nature



Seraphine Aku BATSE is a graduate from the University of Ghana, Legon. She holds a degree in Sociology with Linguistics. She is a Gender advocate passionate about women empowerment, mentorship, youth and community development as well as agriculture. Seraphine is a stakeholder of "Ideas Farm", a youth-led agribusiness which seeks to encourage the youth to venture into agribusiness. In February 2020, Seraphine participated in a panel discussion dubbed "Youth in Agribusiness" at the "Music Speaks" initiative endorsed by Trigmatic, a Ghanaian renowned musician in collaboration with the World Food Program and UNFPA. During the discussion, she made contributions on gender biases in agribusiness and how the youth can maximise volunteering opportunities. Additionally, Seraphine assisted in conceptualizing the "Celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child" and the "16 days of Activism" which was accepted by the one UN systems in Ghana. Both initiatives were launched at the National Level in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. Seraphine also participated in and made valuable contributions to the National Stakeholders Review Workshops including the review for the "National Domestic Violence Policy", the "National Stakeholders Meeting to End Child Marriage", and the "Dissemination Workshop on Ghana's Beijing +25 Report" among others. Currently, she is the President for the Rotaract Club of Accra-Adabraka and the Past National Service Project Chair for Rotaract Ghana. She aspires to be a Development Consultant, working with multilateral and bilateral organizations including the United Nations in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Seraphine intends to establish her own NGO, but in the meantime, she volunteers with the Youth Action Movement (YAM) to accompany the advancement of the sexual and reproductive health rights of the youth. She is also a member of the African Youth and Adolescent Network (AfrYAN) on population and development.









YOLE

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