

# **WHY REPRESENTATION MATTERS,** *“How to design participation for ensuring individual and collective right”*

*YLF EXPERIENCE WITH REPRESENTATION.*

By GILBERT KOFI GERMAIN-YLF

# OUTLINES

- What is representation?
- Who sits at the table of decision
- Who decides and who is heard
- Who is missing
- Who needs to be brought in.
- Young and Lonely Foundation-YLF activities and experience
- Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunisation (GAVI) sponsored project

# What is representation?

- ‘An act or service on behalf or in place of something or someone’

Egs. CSO's like YLF represent the people and government at the Community, District, Regional, and National level

## Who sits at the table of decision

In almost every public engagement YLF had undertaken activities and ensured the inclusion of all manner of persons irrespective of their social, economic, political, religious, cultural and physical status

These persons include;

- Government representatives
- Chiefs/community leaders
- Assemblyman/woman
- Community people (The Aged, Adolescent, Pregnant women and Nursing mothers)
- Youth leaders representatives
- Key stakeholders
- Private individuals/NGO's, CSO's, FBO's etc.
- People with special needs (egs. PWD, PWHIV and others)

# TAKING DECISION AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL/WHO IS HEARD/WHO DECIDES

## Examples:

Authorities of the local assembly mostly invite persons or organisation with which the issues concern.

For example issues concerning health matters mostly involve

- Authorities of Municipal assembly (Municipal Chief Executive, Municipal Coordinating Director, Municipal Finance Officer, Planning Officer)
- Municipal Health Director
- Health Promotion Officer
- NGO's in health (Not at all times)

Authorities of the local assembly mostly invite persons or organisation with which the issues concern.

For example issues concerning security mostly involve

- Authorities of Municipal assembly (Municipal Chief Executive, Municipal Coordinating Director)
- Divisional Police Commander
- Municipal Police Commander
- Municipal Fire Service Commander
- Municipal Prison Commander
- Immigration Service Commander

# WHO DECIDES/WHO IS HEARD

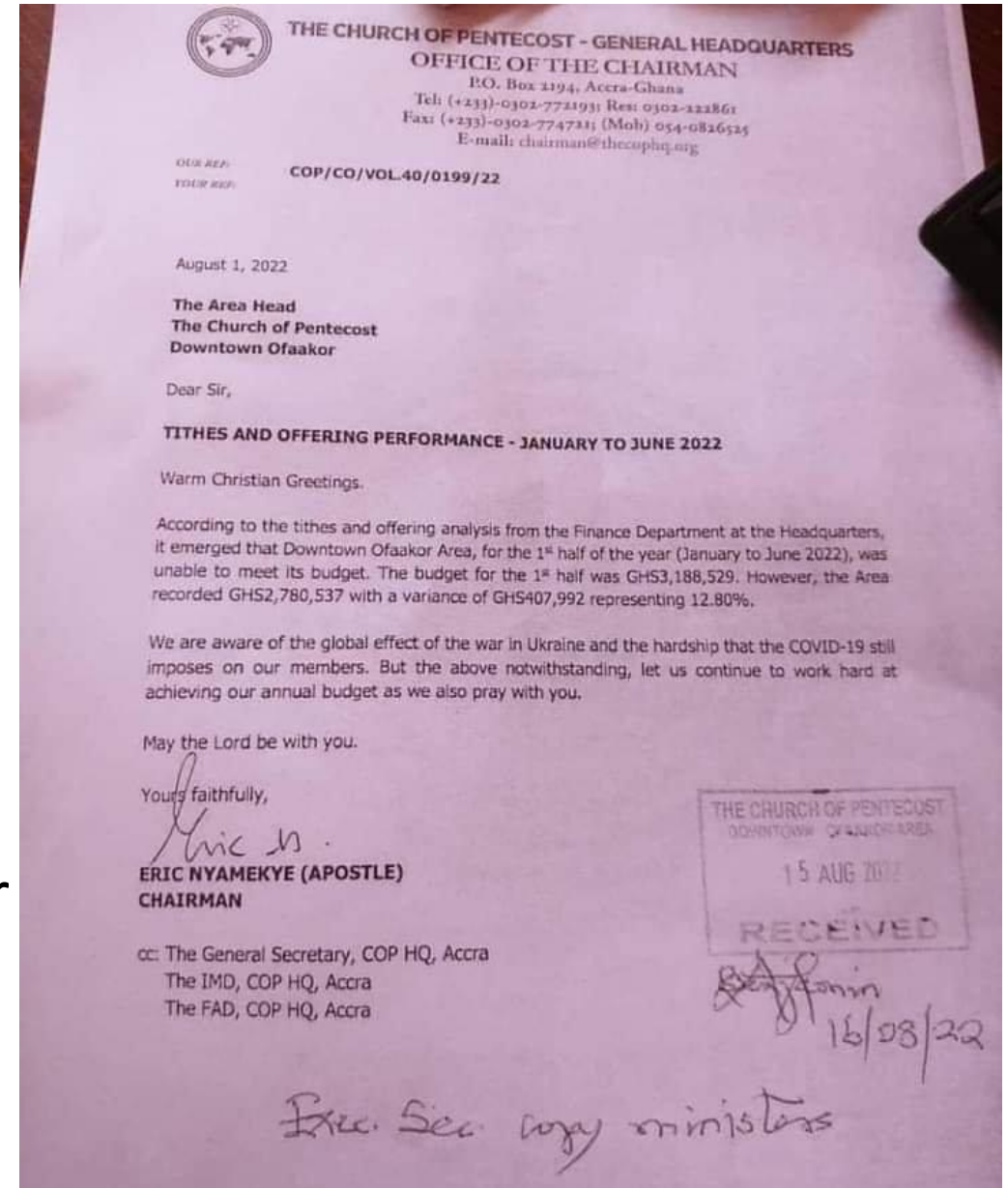
Examples:

## DECISION AT RELIGIOUS LEVEL

(Making decision to favour them)

- Bishop
- Presiding pastor
- Church council of elders
- Church departmental leaders

Decisions taken at church level by leaders only is a result of what happen mostly in government. For examples; Pentecost General Headquarters decided the half year budget target for one area branch but the area brunch could not meet their budget target **(GHS3,188,529.00)**.



# YLF ENGAGED GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL

## Authorities/heads of department of Agona West Municipality (Agona Swedru) Including

- Municipal Chief Executive
- Municipal Coordinating Director
- Municipal Internal Auditor
- Municipal Planning Officer
- Environmental Officer

Were engaged in the planning and execution of the **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)** project at the District level





# Municipal Health Directorate

- Municipal Health Director
- Health Promotion Officer
- Health Information Officer
- Environmental Health Officer
- Health Insurance Officer

Were duly engaged in the planning and facilitating of the **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) project** at the District level.



# YLF engaged Local level decision making (Community leaders etc.) at the “Higher table”

- Chief and Queenmothers
- Assemblyman/member
- Religious leaders (Islamic leaders, Christian leaders, traditional leaders)
- Youth leaders
- PWD's leaders
- The Aged
- Adolescents
- Pregnant women and Nursing Mothers





# YLF engaged Local level decision making (community people) at the “Lower table”

People of an Islamic community called Agona Nkran including

- Aged/Adult
- Youth
- Adolescent
- PWD's (physical disability, HIV victims etc.)
- Pregnant women and nursing mothers



# Who is missing

In most cases following are excluded in decision making:

- The youth mostly aged 15-25 years
- Adolescent between 10-14 years
- The Aged
- “Women”
- People with special needs such as PWD’s etc.
- Sometimes community people whom the project is been intended for, end up being victims

# Who needs to be brought in.

All kinds of Key stakeholders includes:

- Both female and male youth persons to ensure gender balance
- People with special needs. Eg. PWD’s, pregnant women/nursing mothers etc.
- “Women”
- The Aged



# Why are they missing

- Cultural perception (eg. Youth in Ghanaian traditional societies are not expected to sit with the elderly)
- Youth/adolescents are mostly not considered to be knowledgeable about the issues
- The perception that PWD's may not make realistic decision for their wellbeing
- Corruption: When beneficiaries are involved they will press on the authorities to do the right thing but the authorities do the opposite.
- Lack of motivation. Children and the youth are treated in Ghanaian society to be timid, lacking the confidence to participate in decision making.

**THANK  
YOU**



## Behind the Vision - YLF

YLF envisions for a world of great opportunities for all people particularly for women and children development and helps them to unleash their full potential

### Our Vision

“A just world without vulnerable children”





# YLF PARTNER SCHOOL

**ST. GERMAIN SCHOOL COMPLEX**  
P. O. BOX 47, YAABEM, AGONA SWEDRU

**NURSERY, KG, PRIMARY,  
J.H.S & S.H.S**

(Day & Boarding)

TEL: 0244 037834 / 0288037834  
LOCATION: YAABEM / PIPE TANK  
Website: <http://germainschool.50webs.com>





# YLF, St. Germain School Partnership with Crystal Galaxy College



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**LOCATION: AGONA SWEDRU, PIPE TANK - ST. GERMAIN STREET,  
AT THE ST. GERMAIN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

## AIMS

- To be able to provide vocational and other skills training to beneficiaries without making payment at different institutions
- To empower the youth to be self-reliance
- To give employment opportunities to the youth (local & international) in order to give back to society





# CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

1. Community engagement on GESI project for single parent, 2020



2. Supporting community clinic, 2021



3. Supporting households during Covid-19 hard times, 2021



4. Assisting communities to get portable drinking water (mechanised borehole facility), 2021





# Sensitisation programme to improve healthcare coverage across the length and breadth of Ghana





# GAVI PSR1 funded Immunisation and vaccination Project

Sensitising caregivers & mothers on child immunisation against preventable diseases and supporting the immunisation process, 2022 (ongoing)



Sensitising people on covid-19 and supporting house to house vaccination, 2022 (ongoing)





# YLF vocational training support and women empowerment

**Beneficial girls are supported with apprenticeship training and duly graduated in 2022**





# YLF creating leadership & empowerment opportunities for the youth and members

YLF volunteers joining Agona West  
NYA Youth Parliament



YLF Volunteer supported to undertake certificate  
course in Gender, Peace and security at Kofi Annan  
International Peacekeeping Training Centre in  
Ghana



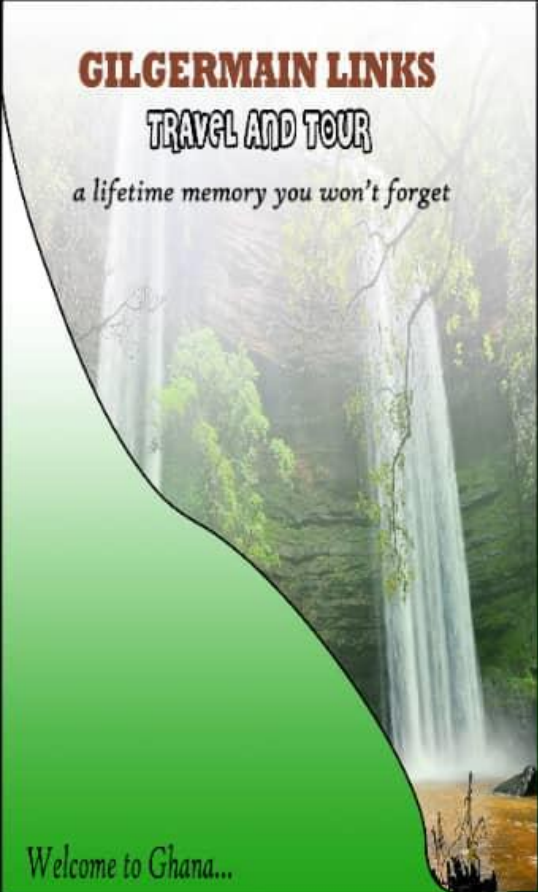


# **PLANS TO GENERATE INTERNAL FUNDING FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS**

# Partnership with GilGermain Links Travel & Tour

## Purpose for the Partnership


- To secure internal funding for sustainability to YLF activities



**GILGERMAIN LINKS**  
**TRAVEL AND TOUR**  
*a lifetime memory you won't forget*

Welcome to Ghana...


Gilgermain links travel and tour specialises in travel and tourism activities including




- 1.General tours
- 2.Family tours
- 3.Honey moon tours
- 4.Educational Packages
- 5.Student tours
- 6.Company tours
- 7.Special themed tours
- 8.Religious tours
- 9.Visa Assistance

**TOUR ACTIVITIES**


- 1.Pre-planning negotiation
- 2.Visit to educational institutions
- 3.Visit to rural and urban communities.
- 4.Visit tour sites across the country.
- 5.Discuss and evaluate activities
- 6.Develop and initiate a sustainable global community social intervention programme for the future.



**YLF EDUCATIONAL TOUR GUIDE PROFILE**



The YLF educational tour is a tailor-made and worry-free planning of a fully packaged programme: educational, tour visit, social engagement and cultural development to sustain a global partnership irrespective of social status.



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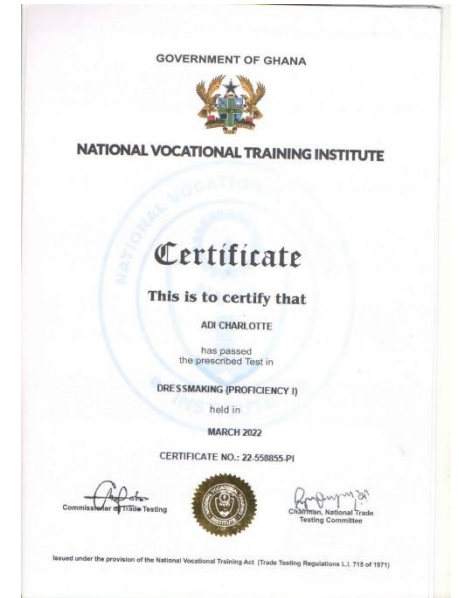
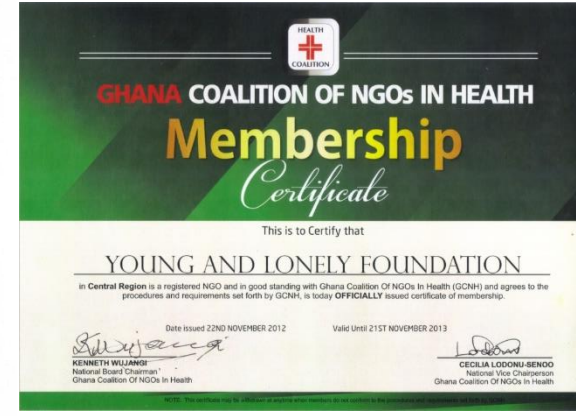


# YLF support in Ghana. Gallery





# Honours





**THANK  
YOU**