

YMCA Ghana

YMCA Vision 2030 Case Study

From student to cinematographer:
How the YMCA Film-making Project
transformed my professional
development'

The story of Efo Korku exemplifies
the approach of YMCA Ghana to
Meaningful Work.



**Pillar 2:
Meaningful
Work**

AT A GLANCE

YMCA: YMCA Ghana

YMCA Alliance: YMCA
Africa

Vision 2030 Pillar:
Meaningful Work



Dates of the project:
2018 - present



At the YMCA Film School,
teamwork is stressed and actively
encouraged. No one is left behind
and everyone takes responsibility
for the outcome of tasks given to
the team.

EFO KORKU MAWUTOR

YMCA Ghana

THE CHALLENGE

The few film schools located on the African continent are usually found in big cities, and their programmes are often prohibitively expensive. But digital learning is on the rise, and Africa is leading this trend. With almost half the population under the age of 18, young people in countries across the continent are more digitally connected than ever, and they are ushering in new possibilities for an increasingly online world.

THE RESPONSE

WELTFILME, together with YMCA Ghana and the African University College of Communications (AUCC), is developing a comprehensive course programme on the online learning platform www.atingi.org. Young filmmakers in countries across Africa can use the platform to gain vocational training and accreditation from wherever they are. DIGITAL FILM SCHOOL AFRICA is supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



women breaking the mould to build careers in filmmaking

Fun in class!



PROJECT DETAILS

The film-making training programme breaks new ground and offers limitless possibilities, removing structural barriers and monopolies, including the burden of costs that impede film education, training and media freedom in Africa.

It combines the African perspective of visual storytelling with a highly innovative and practical approach to filmmaking. The school offers a unique learning environment that connects instructors, mentors and students across the African continent and beyond.

PROJECT OUTCOME

The Ghana YMCA film project has come a long way. It runs 4 annual film training projects, has produced over 30 short films, and trained over 2,000 young people.

TESTIMONIAL

**EFO KORKU MAWUTOR, Y-GI,
ACCRA CENTRAL YMCA**

In 2019, I was a 2nd-year student at the Ghana Institute of Journalism (GIJ), and very hungry for opportunities to build my capacity and to learn the skills that will enable me to be a more resourceful, impactful and creative journalist after my studies. It was around this time that I heard a group of colleagues discussing a film-making project they had participated in the year before. I was interested, and asked them about it.

I went on to join the campus chapter of the YMCA, Y-GIJ and became Communications Director. Later in the year, when I was serving as Feature Writer for the YTimes, a campus digital newspaper started by Y GIJ, the opportunity was shared with us by our Managing Editor, Goddy Nana Mens. I applied but was not shortlisted for that year.

It was in 2020 that I finally made the cut to join the YMCA Film-making project. And since then, the experience has been excellent in every sense of the word.

VOICES



"I have always been fascinated by the art of filmmaking but I had never had the chance to partake in any workshop to learn the skill. So I am very excited heading into this training and I look forward to it very much. It is my hope that at the end of the lessons, I shall be able to direct my own films to tell the stories I am passionate about,"
Yaa Korantemaa, a student in the documentary class shared her excitement over getting her first lessons in filmmaking.

"Ghana YMCA changed my life, they can change yours too, more so if you are a young African woman who needs training and opportunities in filmmaking."



– EFO KOR KU
MAWUTOR

(Continued)

Though I loved writing and directing, I started my training as a cinematographer, mainly because I wanted to understand and be able to know my way around the technical side of film-making, a key factor of my professional development that was lacking in formal academic training in GIJ.

This first workshop and the other two that I have been privileged to participate in so far have elevated me among my peers. First, I learnt to work in production teams.

At the YMCA Film School, teamwork is stressed and actively encouraged. No one is left behind and everyone takes responsibility for the outcome of tasks given to the teams.

Additionally, I learnt the inroads of cinematography: camera handling, photography, videography, editing, sound and many others. We were allowed to select and make our short films through which I became and more confident in my filmmaking and audio-visual storytelling abilities.

Having increased my value as a young communications professional, increased my confidence as an audio-visual storyteller and been given extra skills as a video editor, the YMCA filmmaking program has been a transformative experience for me and I remain eternally grateful to the YMCA for this chance.

The filmmaking program, in my opinion, has substantially improved the YMCA's reputation.

Films made by trainees are being selected and recognised worldwide and that has made Ghana YMCA and the YMCA as a whole more popular in new spaces.

I encourage all the young people I come across to register and be part of this life-altering experience at the Ghana YMCA Film School. It has changed my life and I believe it will be of great benefit to all young people, especially those pursuing Performing Arts, Visual Communication, Journalism and related career opportunities.

Thank you Ghana YMCA!