



The Gateway

Official Newsletter - Projects Abroad Ghana

May 2014

Issue No. 55

Connect with us:



Project Abroad Ghana

House Number 19 Kanfla Street Asylum Down

PMB 226, Accra North, Ghana.

emmanuelabaaja@projects-abroad.org,

infomanager-ghana@projects-abroad.org

www.projects-abroad.net

Projects Abroad



Projects Abroad

✚ **Project Abroad volunteers tour e-waste site**

✚ **Health profiling of slum**

✚ **Project on child marriage**

✚ **Volunteer Story – Jamie Benson**

✚ **Editor's Note**

Project Abroad volunteers tour e-waste site

Old Fadama is Ghana's biggest slum with well over 80,000 settlers according to the 2010 census conducted in the country.

Our new volunteers took a tour through the shacks, saw the enormous amount of garbage, which forms the toxic electronic waste site, and caught up with young men who are involved in the electronic recycling business.

For most of them, life is all about the economics. They disregard the harmful effect of their activity on their health and the environment.

The volunteers interacted with the young men involved in the recycling business and are currently exploring ways of bringing a better life and safer ways of engaging in this economic activity.



Young men engaged in the e-waste business burning rubber off copper wires in order to sell for an income.



Human rights volunteers Rebecca Maggs and Surabi Para asking pregnant mothers questions on access to maternal health services and our slum coordinator Listowel interpreting into the local dialect.

Human Rights volunteers' researched health related issues within the Old Fadama slum. During their visit, they interacted with pregnant mothers who live or work in the slum. They asked questions concerning the women's access to health facilities and maternity homes before and during labour, and asked if they know about or use family planning services, including contraceptives. Many of the pregnant women interviewed had children already, with several saying that they gave birth at home with the help of traditional birth attendants.

This exercise is part of a comprehensive project that is aimed at gathering data on different variables and human rights related issues within the slum.

Project on child marriage

In a related project, volunteers partnered with the National Commission on Civic Education (NCCE) in Teshie, a town in Accra, to train youth leaders on how to effectively contribute to preventing child marriages in their communities. The volunteers shared shocking statistics on child marriages in Ghana and Sub-Saharan Africa, where it tops the global average. The training involved presentations and group exercises.

The NCCE is a statutory body responsible for educating citizens to be responsible in order to contribute to national development. In the light of the numerous challenges that the country faces, partnerships like this will be important for



the realization of social justice and the promotion of human rights.

For a detailed look into our human rights activities in April, you can read the Human Rights Journal.

Volunteer with us!

Ghana is an exciting and popular place to spend some time on a volunteer project or work experience placement. Projects Abroad has many projects available to volunteer in Ghana, based in Accra, Cape Coast, Koforidua, Kumasi, Akuapem Hills and Winneba.

Volunteers in Ghana work on a wide range of projects including Teaching, Care, Community – including Building and IT Projects, Medical & Healthcare Projects – including Medicine, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Midwifery and Dentistry, plus Journalism, Veterinary Medicine, Sports, and Human Rights.

Visit [our website](#) for more information.

Eighteen year old Jamie Benson from England took a gap year after finishing school to travel to the West African country of Ghana to volunteer with Projects Abroad on a Journalism Project. He had wanted to do something relevant towards his future career and he heard that Projects Abroad is a great company that deals with volunteers professionally and decided to plan his trip with them. He travelled to Winneba and volunteered on a university campus radio station, Radio Windy Bay 98.5 FM.

Since Jamie joined the radio station, he has been involved with news writing and the preparation of news summaries. He also worked on the main news bulletins in the evenings. "I made sure the news story is ready for the news readers to read. I also produced and edited an interview with a local business man."

Winneba is a coastal town that is famous for its fishing activities as well as its cultural festival Aboakyeri – a festival of hunting deer using nothing but your bare hands. Due to the human activity on the beach, plastic waste has become a big problem for the community. Jamie threw a spotlight on the risks that the plastic waste poses to the environment. "I brought attention to the dirty beach and now there are programmes running to clean it up."

Journalism in Ghana is a growing professional area and remains crucial for the countries development. Since the introduction of radio in Ghana, it has served as an educational and transformative tool that journalists use to change society for better. Jamie's work with the radio station brought a different perspective to the people of Winneba with regards to a local problem they are all too familiar with – poor sanitation.



This was Jamie's first time working with a radio station and according to him; he has learnt how radio stations and journalism work. "It's really good working with journalists. I learnt how to write the news and edit sound clips."

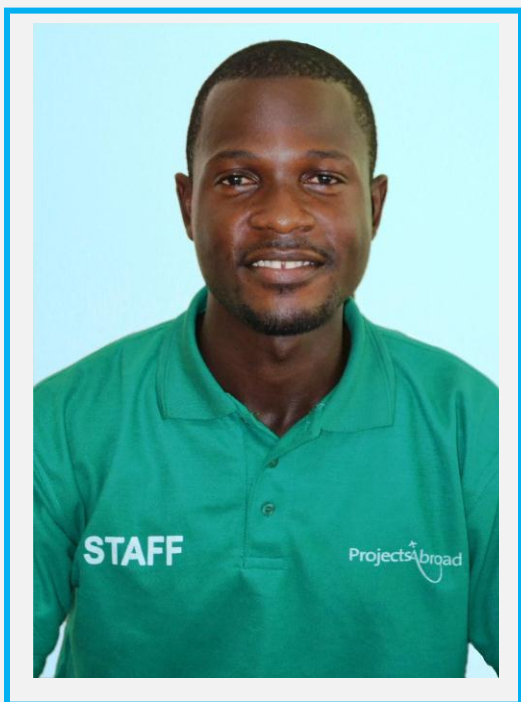
Radio is the most popular medium in Ghana. Taxi and minibus drivers often open their radio for passengers to listen together while others prefer to listen from their mobile phones. Radio Windy Bay serves listeners in and around Winneba with music, news, talk shows, interviews and documentaries.

Comparatively, Jamie remarked, people in Ghana are friendlier than people back in his home country – the United Kingdom. "I'll walk down the streets of Winneba and people will greet me and hold my hand and ask for my phone number."

For him, this experience may well be the most useful thing he could possibly be doing in his life and he will cherish the memory of his experience in Ghana.

For volunteers coming to Ghana, Jamie has this to say: "Be prepared for the hot weather and spicy food. Don't be scared when people want to talk to you."

Editor's Note



Ghana's arms are open wide for visitors of all kinds. For those who love the smell of rain, there's no better time to visit than during the months of May, June, July and August.

These months make up the rainy season and everything is green in Winneba, The Hills and Koforidua. At the same time, it is also much cooler in the busy cities of Accra, Kumasi and Cape Coast where our volunteers work on a wide range of projects including Care and Teaching, Journalism, Veterinary, Farming, Medical, Public Health and others.

Volunteers for the summer group trips and 2 Week as well as 1 Month Specials have started arriving. The first group of six students, who are enthusiastic about veterinary medicine, travelled to the Ashanti Region, Kumasi, to work on our Veterinary Project for three weeks. Within this period, they embarked on veterinary outreaches in communities and on farms.

If you have not made any travel plans yet, think about visiting the friendliest and most hospitable destination in Africa – Ghana. June and July will be colourful and the sound of the 2014 World Cup will be heard as the country's national team, the Black Stars, participates for the third consecutive time in the biggest sporting fiesta in the world.

If your country is not playing in this year's World Cup, then come support the Black Stars in the red, gold, green and black colours!

Social Media

Our social media platforms remains a powerful tool that connects volunteers, friends and family of Projects Abroad though status updates, tweets, pictures, blogs and videos. Our Facebook groups were as active as always in providing information on volunteer experiences and that informs the expectations of volunteers who are coming to Ghana and prospective volunteers as well. Our different Facebook groups – [The Hills](#), [Koforidua](#), [Accra](#), [Cape Coast](#), [Kumasi](#) and the [Projects Abroad Human Rights Office](#) were active throughout the month of May.



An opportunity to relive

For many of our volunteers, our social media platforms provide the opportunity to continuously relive the valuable moments they once had in Ghana and it becomes their space for expressing the heartwarming satisfaction they gained from volunteering to affect the lives of people in need.

Visit us:

