

**Project Title**

Empowering the youth to break the cycle of violence through the inspiration of Nobel Peace Prize Winners

**Applicant**

West Africa Centre for Peace Foundation

**Project Lead**

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**Strategic Objectives**

- To build peace among rival youth groups and strengthen peaceful co – existence amidst cultural, ethnic political and religious differences.
- To deepen commitment of youth to peace advocacy and inter-ethnic dialogue
- To deepen in the youth sense of volunteerism and community service
- To mobilize youth in communities to advocate for peace building and security

**Elevator Pitch**

Nobel Peace Laureates mentoring the youth to change the world

**Project Description**

The rising incidence of youth unemployment in Ghana coupled with the challenge of illegal arms trade and insecurity within the West African sub-region has resulted in a steady increase in youth involvement in political and chieftaincy-related violence in the country. Several youth have, as a result, lost their lives and also resorted to violence to find solutions to their daily needs. Land, political, religion, and chieftaincy disputes have been identified as the underlining cause of most of these clashes. Young persons have been recruited by various factions and parties in a bid to settle scores and disputes arising out of chieftaincy, land or political disputes. This situation seems to be on the rise as youth factions have resorted to attacking each other in reprisal attacks even long after the chieftaincy or political disputes that originally sparked the disputes have subsided. The West Africa Centre for Peace Foundation (WACPF) therefore seeks to ameliorate this situation by sensitizing and educating youth within violence prone areas on peace building, early warning systems and peaceful co-habitation. This project needs to be selected because, WACPF stongly belived empowering and inculcating in young people volunterism, service learning projects through its award

winning PeaceJam programming at allow young people to think critical and be inspired by a Nobel Peace laureate to make the world a better place for their generation.

### **Proposed Locations and Venues**

Greater Accra, Eastern Region, Ashanti Region, Northern Region and Western Region

### **Target Audience(s)**

The proposed project is mainly targeted at the youth since they have the tendency to drive a nation either in a positive or a negative manner. When implemented will result in enhanced ability of the youth to identify potential conflict situations; decreased involvement in political, tribal and ethnic related violence within target communities; improved understanding about how to attain peace with the help of education; Increased understanding and awareness of different cultures and religions. The action will also result in increased cooperation and teamwork among target beneficiaries. By the end of the project, 600 youths will be trained in peace and conflict resolution skills, mediation, leadership skills, best intercultural practices, gender violence and human rights abuses.

### **Amplification Plan**

The project is aimed at providing training on peace building which focuses on creating a culture of peace through nonviolent approaches (community building, communication, conflict resolution, human rights, social justice, patriotism, good citizenship, global responsibility, neighborliness and religion's role in peace-building).

WACPF will implement the PeaceJam curriculum with 600 students from 20 different schools in the senior and Junior High School level through the PeaceJam program that explores the adolescent stories of 14 Nobel Peace Laureates and the strategies they used to overcome problems in their lives and their communities. There are different versions of this curriculum that are age-appropriate, which can be used with youth age 5-25.

The curriculum is designed to help youth explore their own identities and reexamine the choices they make, including their role models and the peer groups to which they belong. In the effort of peace building for example, youth learn about Desmond Tutu's struggles to end apartheid in South Africa and the role of reconciliation and other techniques to heal communities devastated by racism and institutionalized racism.

Youth also develop leadership and problem-solving skills while engaging in service-learning activities that address local needs connected to PeaceJam's One Billion Act of Peace Campaign. This part of the project takes place at each school site, allowing youth to come together and dialogue, brainstorm, and debate on issues related to the Noble Peace Laureates and how they solve problems in their own communities through non-violence ways.

## Public and Private Partners

The West Africa Centre for Peace Foundation (WACPF) pursues collaboration with the following organizations, which can provide guidance and resources to assist in accomplishing our mission:

- PeaceJam Foundation USA provides curriculum and training on delivery of PeaceJam educational programs
- Brian Kelly an American Entrepreneur (The Points Guy) major donor
- Rotary Club of Erie – USA
- Rotary Club of Cleveland - USA
- Frank Dilitash – USA
- UN Ghana – Provides resources persons during conference
- National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) - Provides resources persons during conference
- The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justices (CHRAJ) - for resource persons to help in development of human rights advocacy work
- Ghana Police Service for resource persons in working with youth

The West Africa Centre for Peace Foundation is the official Ghana chapter of the **PeaceJam Foundation** – USA which is a non-profit (501 (c) 3) organization founded in 1996 in Denver Colorado. PeaceJam is an international educational program that connects youth with Nobel Peace Laureates with the goal of creating a generation of young people committed to positive change in themselves, their communities, and the world. During the year-long program, youth study the life and work of the Nobel Peace Laureates and learn about issues such as violence and intolerance facing young people today. (click here: [www.peacejam.org](http://www.peacejam.org))

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

ACTIVITY	VENUE	PERSON (s) RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME (MONTHS)												EXPECTED OUTPUT	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Mentors/Rotaracts (University students) training	Accra	Project Director											*			50 mentors trained on how to facilitate small group discussion and help in conference activities
PeaceJam Slam	St. Kizito conference hall	Project Director, students, mentors, youth												*		360 participated in a day peace conference to kick start the programming year
Teachers and staff training	Accra	Project Director	*													volunteers and staff given Orientation
Train students on Module 1	All schools	Teachers & Volunteers		*												600 students receive training on <b>Peace &amp; Security, Violence (conflict resolution)</b>
Train students on Module 2	All schools	Teachers & Volunteers			*											600 students receive training on <b>Emotions (Handling Anger)</b>
Train students on Module 3	All schools	Teachers & Volunteers			*	*										600 students receive training on <b>Communication &amp; Compassion</b>
Train students on Module 4	All schools	Teachers & Volunteers				*	*									600 students receive training on <b>(Human Rights)</b>
Service Learning Projects	All communities	Students Teachers & volunteers						*								20 schools implement their <b>service projects</b> in their communities
Mentors training	Accra	Project Director						*								70 mentors trained on how to facilitate small group discussion and help in conference activities
Public Lecture	Accra	Project Director, students, mentors, youth & volunteers						*								Ambassadors, stakeholders, chiefs, youth & women, groups, politicians

		Teachers, youth groups														listen being lectured on peace, security and human rights by a nobel peace laureate
PeaceJam Youth Leadership Conference with the Nobel Peace Laureate	University of Ghana - Shaba Hall	Project Director, students, mentors, youth & volunteers						*								600+ will participate in a two- day PeaceJam Leadership Conference and presents service projects to a <b>Noble Peace Laureate</b>
Undertake Monitoring & Supervision Visits		Project Director Project Coordinator	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Monitoring carried out
Compile and submit project Report		Project Coordinator													*	Project activities report submitted

## **Sustainability**

The impact of the project will be sustained through continuous engagement with youth and teachers in the target schools and communities. The teachers will undergo face-to-face training from the commencement of the project, which will enable them have access to PeaceJam online monthly trainings, updates and resources. The training of teachers in this curriculum will provide an avenue for continued training of youth in the areas of peace, security and conflict resolution.

## **Performance Indicators and Monitoring Plan**

The project director, coordinator and officers will be responsible for the on-going daily implementation of the PeaceJam programming and the evaluation of the impact of the program on students. Monitoring, as a continuous management function, will provide staff with timely indication of progress or lack of it in the achievement of the project objectives.

The monitoring will consist of the following:

- Weekly monitoring by project officers using the weekly and monthly reporting systems
- Then biweekly monitoring by the project coordinator through site visits and meetings. During these supervision and monitoring sessions, field officer reports and records will be reviewed and discussed
- Project implementation successes achieved and problems encountered will be reviewed and remedial measures will be provided to address them.

The evaluation of outcomes will be done through the use of the Participatory Learning for Action (PLA) research tools. The West Africa Centre for Peace Foundation (WACPF) will train field assistants in the use of PLA tools for the collection of information and data in the communities. It is anticipated that the project evaluation will be conducted initially as part of the mid-term review, which will allow time to correct any short comings that may occur. Then a second round of data collection will be completed at the end of the project to determine its impact on selected communities.

Also, the evaluation will include qualitative data collected through interviews with youth, teachers, and community members to obtain feedback on the effectiveness of the program, etc. We will also conduct pre- and post-surveys of youth to measure the impact of the program on the following outcomes: school, community and civic engagement; character development; commitment to peace building, security, conflict resolution and human rights; civic knowledge; leadership/problem-solving skills; and plans for the future.

**Budget and Budget Narrative**

Attached