

# Protokoll

# EMPOWERMENT DAY



Ghanaians in NRW 2014

(Aachen, 20. September 2014)



Träger der Fachstelle Migration und Entwicklung NRW: FSI Forum für soziale Innovation gGmbH.

Teil des Eine-Welt-PromotorInnen-Programms In Zusammenarbeit mit dem Eine Welt Netz / NRW

Gefördert von Engagement Global im Auftrag des BMZ und der Landesregierung NRW

## 1. Zusammenfassung der Veranstaltung

### Two out of ten – EMPOWERMENT DAY „Ghanaians in NRW“ Nr.2 fand in Aachen statt

Nachdem im September 2013 der Ghana-NRW-E-Day Nr. 1 als E-Day Nr. 5 in Düsseldorf stattgefunden hatte, wagten sich die Organisatoren dieses Mal in den äußersten Westen des Bundeslandes mit der mit Abstand größten afrikanischen Diaspora Deutschlands. Etwa 400 GhanaerInnen leben in Aachen. Während man mit Düsseldorf quasi in einem Epizentrum ghanaischer Akteure leichtes Spiel hatte, war es in Aachen – beim E-Day Nr. 10 – ausdrücklich ein erklärtes Ziel von Ghana Council NRW – dem Dachverband ghanaischer Vereine und Organisationen in NRW, dass auch Vereine, die sich noch nicht in dieser NRW-weiten Struktur wiederfinden, stärkere Berücksichtigung finden. So war Ghana Union Aachen e.V. Gastgeber vor Ort. Neben den beiden erwähnten Vereinen war dieses Mal auch Ghana Forum NRW Mitveranstalter, was optisch unter anderem direkt dadurch positiv sichtbar wurde, dass ein Teil der Ausstellung „Ghana – Nicht nur Schokoladenseiten“ den Plenarsaal verschönerte. Um die Veranstalter an dieser Stelle zu vervollständigen: Das AfrikaForum Aachen e.V., das Eine Welt Forum Aachen e.V., das Kommunale Integrationszentrum der Stadt Aachen, die Stadt Aachen, Engagement Global, das FSI Forum für soziale Innovation gGmbH und die Fachstelle Migration und Entwicklung NRW. Die GEPA – The Fair Trade Company war wieder Kaffee-FAIRsorgerin.

Nach der Begrüßung durch die Moderatorin Ivy Owusu-Dartey und den Veranstaltern behandelte William Nketia, Vorsitzender von Ghana Council, die Situation der GhanaerInnen in NRW in Form eines Inputs im Plenum. Daran schloss sich eine lebhafteste Diskussion an. In der anschließenden Workshop-Phase behandelten Ernest Ampadu (Ghana Council NRW/ Promotor im Eine-Welt-PromotorInnenprogramm) und Margaret Lariba Arnheim (Ghana Forum NRW) die Länderpartnerschaft unter Berücksichtigung der Frage, welche Rolle die hier lebenden GhanaerInnen dabei derzeit spielen und wie sie ihre Einflussmöglichkeiten ausbauen können. Workshop 2 widmete sich der Frage, wie man die zumeist in Deutschland geborene Jugend mit ghanaischem Hintergrund für Themen mit Ghanabezug gewinnen kann. Da besteht – und da waren sich die beiden Referenten Alex Appiah und Felix Opoku einig – Handlungsbedarf.



Ghanaisch ging es auch in kulinarischer Hinsicht weiter. Was das kulturelle Rahmenprogramm anbelangt, so hieß es „Kenyan Music on a Ghana E-DAY“: für die wohlverdiente Zerstreuung sorgte die Steven Ouma Band.

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Beim nächsten EMPOWERMENT DAY „Ghanaians in NRW“ wird wohl an genau den Themen weitergearbeitet werden, die dieses Mal behandelt worden sind. Geografisch soll es aber dann in Richtung Nordosten gehen...

## 2. Workshops

**Workshop 1: The Country Partnership Ghana-NRW – Which Roll does each of the Ghanaian Diaspora and the German Civil Society play?** (Ernest Ampadu – Ghana Council NRW e.V. (Promoter/Coordinator), Margaret Lariba Arnheim – Ghana Forum e.V. (Representative))

The workshop introduced the Ghana Council and Ghana Forum and their role and activities in NRW. It was clear that the German Civil Society could only play a good role in the partnership, when there is good link to the network of the Ghanaian Associations and individuals. There should be a good public relations engagement of the Diaspora to attract the attention of the German Society.

The following problems were located:



1. The success of the Diaspora in the partnership between Ghana and NRW depends mainly on the organization of the various Associations and individuals. Ghana Council and Ghana Forum focus on the network of Associations and individuals in network. The Associations however are not well organized and there is lack of communication among the various groupings. Most of the Ghanaians in NRW focus on only on work and are stressed.
2. The Ghanaian Diaspora is affected by the language barrier, poor educational background, lack of unity and cooperation, lack of communication among themselves and their neighbors, lack of acceptance for the structure of the German system, hence lack of a mind of integration. The language conflict presents also an identity conflict. The Ghanaians are much more interested in social and welfare activities like; funeral gatherings, outdoorings and birthday parties. The Churches are the most organized institutions in the Diaspora and have mostly influenced the mindset and the lives of the Ghanaians in the Diaspora. However, in spite of the massive mobilization of the Ghanaians Churches, the Church's leaders' can't support their members on issues outside the Church and other social, political and economic engagements are either ignored or neglected.

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3. The poor participation and interest of the Ghanaians in the German activities and events has been recognized but due to their mind set, there seem to be no solution now. This has created integration problems which also affects the engagement of the German Civil Society in the partnership.
4. The role of the Diaspora and the German Civil society in the partnership agreement was not well defined. There have been some conflicts between the Diaspora Associations and the Ghana Embassy as well as over expectations of the Diaspora Associations from the Government of the NRW and its local and district councils. The extent of funding for projects and level of projects support has posed a problem to the Diaspora and the German Civil Society. This needs a clarification to improve the role of the Diaspora.



The participants of the workshop recommended the following measures to improve the role of the Diaspora and the German Civil Society in the partnership:

1. The role of the Diaspora represented by the Ghana Council and the Ghana Forum should be manifested in the Partnership Agreement which is in the process of its renewal.
2. The Government of NRW should inform the regional, district, local and city councils about its cooperation with the Diaspora through the Ghana Council and the Ghana Forum. This could serve as a means of public relations for the Diaspora and an initiative to activate the German Civil Society. This would promote and facilitate partnerships between Cities, schools, universities, hospitals, families, Churches, NGOs and company affiliations of Ghana and NRW.
3. The networking of the Ghanaians and their various Associations in the Diaspora must be improved through information and communication, to avoid the duplication and conflicts of activities, projects and events, to pull the resources of the various participants in the Diaspora together and to maximize the impact. Through the network, projects and activities of the same nature could be merged together to improve the chance of their funding and implementation.
4. The Ghana Council should improve its contacts to the various Ghanaians and their Associations, to inform and support them in identifying their potentials, resources and chances in the Diaspora, to enable them to utilize the partnership to improve their lives and their integration in the German society and help to develop their local areas back home in Ghana.
5. To improve the educational standard and chance of the Ghanaians in the Diaspora in future, projects geared towards adult language education, children and youth caretaking centers (as home work and examination preparation support) should be created in the various Ghanaian communities.



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Through the organization of Empowerment Days, the Diaspora should be educated and empowered with the ability to handle. This will improve the quality and claims of the Diaspora and its role in the partnership between Ghana and NRW.

6. There should also be a good interaction between the Diaspora, the German Civil Society and Institutions like financial institutions, IHK, HK, Job Centers, municipalities, local council governments etc., through the organization of diverse social, educational, cultural and business or economical events, Empowerment Days and meetings to present Ghana as a potential partner country.
7. The participants of this workshop concluded that both the Ghanaian Diaspora in NRW and the German Civil Society in NRW need to be mobilized, educated or enlightened on their role in the Ghana – NRW Partnership. This could be realized through advertising on the media and German institutions eg. IHK, HK, etc., special events, meetings and workshop. The support, care and cooperation with the Engagement Global, the Eine-Welt Forum and the Government of the North Rhine Westphalia are very necessary for the achievement of this goal.

## Workshop 2: The Next Generation – Why should we be committed to Ghana? The Generational Gap within the Ghanaian Community (Alex Appiah / Felix Opoku (both Ghana Council NRW))

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### Background



The Workshop analyzed the current generational gap within the Ghanaian diaspora. Participants agreed that within the Ghanaian Community, there is a wide rift between the older and younger generation. This rift is characterized by the following factors:

- ✓ The younger generation does not easily identify with their Ghanaian roots
- ✓ The younger generation does not have access to getting acquainted with the Ghanaian cultural background
- ✓ The focus of interest is very diverse among both generations. The older generation seems to place more focus on their roots
- ✓ Level of interest in the respective activities is very low



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## Challenges faced by the older generation

Participants of the 2. Workshop discussed the key challenges faced by the older generation that has prevented them from integrating adequately in the German society.

- i. **Lack of educational skills** – The older generation is saddled with significant educational deficits in the form of predominantly insufficient language skills. Since their initial aim was to work and make money many of them chose not to invest in learning the German language.
- ii. **Lack of direction and guidance** – Subsequent Ghanaian immigrants always find themselves also locked in the Ghanaian community with people who do not have the knowledge and experience to guide them on how to properly integrate and adapt to their new environment.
- iii. **Wrong initial perceptions / Mindsets** – Back home Ghana there is the general perception that earning money and working in Germany is easily accessible.
- iv. **Organization and Time Management** – Because of insufficient knowledge most people in the Ghanaian communities are not able to adapt to the organizational and time demands needed in order to meet the day-to-day challenges posed by the German society.
- v. **Influences (The Ghanaian Churches)** – The Ghanaian Churches in NRW were also identified as having significant influences on the lifestyles and mindset of Ghanaians in NRW. Generally, most people and families of the older generation are more involved in Church activities. They give preference to Church activities than any other social engagements.

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Challenges faced by the younger generation:

- i. **Effects of educational deficits** – Because of the educational deficits of the older generation, most of the older generation could not provide



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adequate support to the younger generation especially in terms of school work. Also this has impacted the communication between both generations significantly.

- ii. **Lack of parental support** – Because the focus of the older generation has always been on Ghana, not much effort was made to support the younger generation to consolidate itself in the German society.
- iii. **Wrong parental pressure** – Wrong parental pressure was identified as one of the key challenges faced by the younger generation. The older generation is seen as often trying to press the younger generation to adapt the lifestyles and mindset of the older generation.



### Bridging the GAP

- ❖ Participants pointed out that in order to reduce the generational gap there is the need to set up a platform or **medium for connection** between the older generation and the younger generation. Strategically, this has to be discussed in detail and planned accordingly. The Ghana Council should make it as an agenda to create the capacity which will allow more engagements between the younger and older Ghanaian generation.
- ❖ **Youth Wings of Associations** – Participants agreed that Ghanaian Associations should be encouraged to set up youth wings where the younger generation could be formally engaged.
- ❖ **Parental Education** – Because the German society is an evolving society the older generation should make use of every opportunity which allows them to gain more education.



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- ❖ **Database** – Participants agreed that there has to be a database with a pool of Ghanaians who have specific skills with which they can help the Ghanaian community with. Such type of project can be initiated by the Ghana Council.
- ❖ **Shift of Focus** – Going forward, the older generation should be encouraged to shift focus from Ghana to Germany since most of them have been living here for decades. They should be guided to realize the benefits of adequate integration, education and the need to consider Germany as home!

### 3. Impressionen in Bildern



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

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