

## Ghana Newsletter Update, January 2018

### *Bringing Together Local Peacebuilders in Ghana*

This October the Purdue Peace Project (PPP), in collaboration with the Concern Youth of Tuobodom (CYT), organized its first ever retreat for its [local peace committees in Ghana](#).

The retreat was held in Tuobodom, the home ground of the Tuobodom Peacemakers Committee (TPMC). In addition to TPMC, Nandom Youth for Peace and Development (NYPAD), Lambussie Youth for Peace and Development (LYPAD) and members of one of the PPP's oldest peace committee in Ghana, the Berekum Peace Committee (BPC), participated in the retreat.



*Peacebuilders gather for a group photo at the end of a two-day retreat for PPP-supported local peace committees in Ghana in October.*

The goal of the two-day retreat was to provide a platform for members of the local peace

committees to share their insights, knowledge, and experiences and find opportunities to co-mentor and network with each other. PPP's Ghana Country Director Yaganoma Baatuolkuu facilitated the retreat.

During the retreat, peace committee members had opportunities to discuss their successes and challenges. In breakout sessions, members from different peace committees worked in teams to identify strategies to prevent violence and build peace. They also gained and shared knowledge about action plans, budgeting, and effective teamwork.

Throughout the retreat, members had the chance to network with other and recognize themselves as part of a larger group of peacebuilders in Ghana. The district chief executive of the Techiman North District delivered the opening remarks and expressed his desire to continue collaboration with the PPP toward peacebuilding in the community.

On the last day, CYT members led a [walking tour of Tuobodom](#) for all the visiting peace committees to see the effects of conflict. Visiting members said that this expanded their understanding and reaffirmed the need for peacebuilding.

Overall, the retreat was a success and resulted in some viable impact. Local media also reported on the gathering of the peace committees and four of the retreat participants shared about what they learned during the retreat on a local radio station. Peace committee members reported identifying strategies for peace that they could take back to their own communities. The committee members also reported gaining new friends and mentors they could call upon for advice and to address shared problems. They are now working with the country director to form a common platform to collaborate and work together toward building peace.



**Top:** Ghana Country Director Yaganoma Baatuolkuu keeps participants engaged through different chants and exercises.

**Bottom:** Members of local peace committees walked the streets of Tuobodom as part of a tour led by Concern Youth of Tuobodom.

**Learn more:** For more information about the retreat, visit: <https://cla.purdue.edu/ppp/blogs/ghanaoctober2017.html>