

4TH QUARTER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER
2025



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ASFIT remained actively engaged in global and continental peacebuilding spaces throughout the quarter under review and is deeply grateful to all our partners and stakeholders for the support and cooperation we continue to receive in the course of our work.

ASFIT Successfully Launched the Football for Peace Ghana Youth Program to Unite Youth across Communities, Strengthen Youth Leadership, and Community Resilienc.



In partnership with Football for Peace (FFP), the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), and the Ghana Center For Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), on 11th October, we successfully launched the Football for Peace Ghana Youth Program. Partnering with Football for Peace, a global sports diplomacy organisation, ASFIT aimed to strengthen community resilience, build trust, and strengthen youth leadership in a bid to drive peace and development across the five (5) targeted communities and beyond.

Held at the Walewale astro turf, the initiative leverages football's unifying power to foster peace.

Jay Jadeja, Head of Global Football for Peace, shared in an interview with Asaase News that "this program is the opportunity to take the first step into Northern Ghana and address young people to ensure that we build in resilience, creating leaders of tomorrow, and ensuring they are able to carry their education. Football for Peace is a vehicle used to engage people and educate them on positive ways.



The innovative programme brings together 100 young people aged 13 to 17 years from five communities (Wulugu, Walewale, Tinguri, Kukua, and Nabari) with 20 participants from each community to participate in 12 sessions that integrate pitch-based lessons with classroom workshop sessions around leadership, conflict management, and media literacy.

Kashifa Abubakari, a Project Officer at African Students For Interfaith Tolerance (ASFIT), also in an interview with Asaase News, emphasised that “in trying to bridge a gender gap, we believe that peace is not just about dealing with one particular gender but making sure that everyone is included, hence, the need to include women or the need to include both young girls and boys. This is to show that women or girls are also prioritised when it comes to peace,” Kashifa said.

Youth, Peace and Security: Introductory Meeting with the Minister of Youth Development and Empowerment.



On Tuesday, 21st October 2025, ASFIT, as a member of Ghana's Technical Working Group on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), participated in an introductory meeting with Hon. George Opare-Addo, Esq., aimed at strengthening collaboration between the Ministry and the Technical Working Group.

The meeting took place at the Ministry's Conference Hall in Accra and provided an opportunity to brief the Minister on the progress of the Technical Working Group on Youth, Peace and Security, as well as to officially introduce members of the Working Group.

During the meeting, the Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, stating that "the YPS agenda remains a priority.

Speaking after the engagement, Mr. Issah Toha Shamsu, Executive Director of African Students for Interfaith Tolerance (ASFIT) and a member of the Technical Working Group, stated:

To fully achieve the ambitions of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, we need everyone on board. Government support is crucial in developing and implementing a National Action Plan on YPS. It is exciting and encouraging that the Minister has reaffirmed the government's commitment to the Technical Working Group and the YPS agenda in Ghana.

While young people remain key partners in building sustainable peace and security, they are often excluded from peace processes and viewed merely as beneficiaries rather than active contributors. Despite operating with limited resources, youth-led peacebuilding organisations continue to play a vital role in promoting peace and supporting community development.

ASFIT remains committed to advancing the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda in Ghana and working alongside other young people to build sustainable peace and strengthen social cohesion across the country.

ASFIT Participates in the 2025 Global Ethics Forum in Geneva, Switzerland.





Our Executive Director, Issah Toha Shamsu, participated in the Global Ethics Forum 2025 (#GEF2025) in Geneva, Switzerland, held from the 8th to the 10th of October, 2025. He later addressed a roundtable discussion titled "Preparing for Peace: What kind of innovative initiatives and spaces are needed for mediation, hope regeneration, and healing?", where he shared reflections from his experience as a Kofi Annan Changemaker and as Executive Director of African Students for Interfaith Tolerance (ASFIT).



This session was part of the Peace Track: Changing the Narrative, Preparing for Peace, organised with support from Wilton Park, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, OHCHR Faith for Rights, and the World Future Council. While at the Forum, he participated in an Executive Master Class on “Leading through Uncertainty: Purpose-driven Leadership as a Compass in a Shapeshifting World.

After the Forum, Issah shared, “Our session primarily focused on rethinking Multistakeholder Diplomacy and Inclusive Governance in a Fragmented World,’ and I am deeply grateful to Globethics and its partners for this incredible opportunity to participate and contribute to this Forum.



The 2025 Global Ethics Forum, which was also an official pre-summit event of the AI Impact Summit 2026, brought together civil society actors, policymakers, technologists, young entrepreneurs, and activists to explore the power of ethics and reflect deeply on our collective responsibility for a better future under the theme: “Reinventing Responsible Governance: Navigating Dilemmas, Power and Purpose.

All photos courtesy of Globethics, captured by Khaula Smart during the 2025 Global Ethics Forum.



ASFIT was represented at an event commemorating the International Day of the Girl Child held under the theme “Empowering Girls through Education, Protection, Innovation, Global Practices and Norms”, held at the United Nations Office in Geneva.

The event brought together international organizations, including **Mercy Hands Europe**, **NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW/NY)**, **UN Women**, **The Geneva Consensus Foundation**, and **CLAFG (Centre de Liaison des Associations Féminines Genevoises)**, alongside participants from across the globe, to reflect on transformative approaches to empowering girls and young women.

The importance of equipping girls and women with skills to earn income was underscored as a critical pathway to empowering families, strengthening community resilience, and fostering sustainable peace and development.

ASFIT Participates in the EU Youth, Peace and Security Week and Conference in Brussels



The 2nd EU Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Conference and Week took place in Brussels from November 10th to 14th, 2025, marking 10 years of the UN Resolution 2250. Over 120 young peacebuilders from 85+ countries, EU institutions, and partners met to reflect (stocktaking), co-shape future action, and strategize on advancing meaningful youth participation globally and nationally. Through the Support to ECOWAS in Peace, Security and Governance (EPSG) Project – commissioned by Germany, co-funded by the [European Union](#), and implemented by [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) GmbH \(GIZ\)](#), [Expertise France](#), and [FIAP](#), Issah Toha Shamsoo joined other young peacebuilders at the conference,

He shared, “For us to advance the youth, peace and security agenda in our respective countries and communities, we need a platform for knowledge exchange and peer learning. This conference made that possible in a meaningful way. I feel inspired and look forward to sharing the lessons learned here.”



As the National Coordinator of the Ghana Civil Society Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security, Mr. Issah Toha Shamsu highlighted the crucial role of youth-led CSOs in implementing the youth, peace, and security agenda at local and national levels. "When the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2250 in 2015, acknowledging the meaningful role of young people, the intention was to take immediate steps to ensure that young people's voices are heard and supported. To achieve this, young people and our organizations must play an active role, supported by all interested stakeholders," he emphasized

A joint declaration was endorsed by participants, which can be found here: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/joint-declaration-youth-peace-and-security-outcome-document-second-eu-conference-youth-peace-and_en



ASFIT Takes Part in AfriYAN Ghana's Third Special Delegates' General Assembly in Accra



From the 8th to the 10th of December, 2025, we had the pleasure and honour of participating in the AfriYAN Ghana 3rd Special General Assembly happening in Accra. Convened under the theme: "Advancing AfriYAN Agenda: Meaningful Participation, Strong Leadership and Greater Impact" at Ridma Hotel in Accra. Mr. Sumani Sahidle Kawuneni, who represented ASFIT at the General Assembly, joined about forty AfriYAN member organizations across the country, also representative from the Ministry for Youth Development and Empowerment, the National Youth Authority NYA, UNFPA, and other developmental partners. The 2025 General Assembly marked the climax of the reform process, which started in the year 2024.

The three-day Special General Assembly of AfriYAN Ghana ended with elections of the National Chairperson and the pillar leads with two years mandate.

Continental Stocktaking Conference on Youth, Peace and Security - Nairobi, Kenya



The month of December marked a decade since the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), which recognises the critical role young people play in maintaining peace and security. Over the years, this milestone has inspired three additional UN Security Council resolutions, several policy interventions, including National Action Plans on Youth, Peace and Security, and strengthened efforts to meaningfully involve young people in peace and security processes. Yet, much remains to be done to fully realise the YPS agenda.

From the 8th to the 10th of December 2025, we joined policymakers, young peacebuilders, partners, and donors in Nairobi, Kenya, for the Continental Stocktaking Conference on Youth, Peace and Security to review and reflect on the progress made ten years on under the theme: 'Reflections and Renewed Commitments for Africa'. Over the three-day period, we engaged in constructive dialogues that celebrate achievements, acknowledge persistent hurdles, share best practices, and strategise for the decade ahead.



RECOGNITION OF IMPACT

On the sidelines of the Continental Stocktaking Conference on Youth, Peace and Security, we were featured in the 10x10 Youth, Peace and Security Impact Series, which was officially launched at the conference. ASFIT's Executive Director, Mr. Issah Toha Shamsu was recognized and awarded for his contribution to advancing Youth, Peace, and Security agenda across Africa. This recognition was both a moment of pride and a reminder of the responsibility to continue advancing meaningful youth participation and leadership in peace and security processes.



As we assess a decade of the implementation of the YPS agenda, we are reminded of both the magnitude of the task ahead and the opportunities that arise from these challenges. As hosts of the Ghana Civil Society Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security, we believe that a whole-of-society approach, anchored in stronger partnerships among young people, CSOs, government, academia, and development partners, will be even more essential for the next decade of YPS implementation across Africa and globally.

100 Young Peacebuilders Complete Football for Peace Training in the North East Region



After twelve (12) transformative and impactful sessions, 100 young people drawn from Nabari, Wulugu, Walewale, Tinguri, and Kukua in the North East Region graduated from the Football for Peace Ghana Youth Programme.

The graduation ceremony, held at the Walewale Astro Turf in the West Mamprusi Municipality, brought together about 500 community members, chiefs and elders, and partners in a shared celebration of youth leadership and the urgent need to strengthen community peace and resilience.

All one hundred graduating participants converged in Walewale, accompanied by their family members and peers, with strong support from the chiefs and elders of the participating communities. The event was marked by drumming and dancing, showcasing various traditional performances. The celebrations were climaxed by women performing the "To ra" dance, led by the Magazia (women's leader) of Wulugu.



Speaking at the event, Issah Toha Shamsoo, Local Programme Coordinator and Executive Director of African Students for Interfaith Tolerance (ASFIT), described the programme as a success. He stated:

I am excited that today we are celebrating the next generation of peace leaders who have successfully completed a syllabus that integrates pitch-based activities with educational workshops to promote critical thinking, identify extremist ideologies, strengthen youth leadership, and build community resilience.”

Mr. Issah acknowledged the collective contributions that made the programme successful, including the efforts of community focal persons, ASFIT staff, educational practitioners who facilitated the classroom sessions, and coaches who led the pitch-based activities.



He also recognized the support of local traditional authorities and partner organizations, namely Football for Peace, the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), and CDD-Ghana. He expressed gratitude to the young participants, their families, and their communities for their dedication and support, concluding with the words, "Thank you, ti-puusiya paam."

Mr. Jay Jadeja, a member of the Football for Peace Global Affairs Team, congratulated the participants on successfully completing the programme and encouraged them to continue learning and contributing actively to their communities. He also commended African Students for Interfaith Tolerance for its role as the local implementing partner and for its commitment to the effective delivery of the programme.



In recognition of the contributions and impact of the Football for Peace team, particularly Mr. Jay Jadeja, who was present at the graduation ceremony, the Chief of Walewale, Mba Duurana Mahami Abudu, together with his elders, enskinned Mr. Jadeja as the Walewale Suhudua Naa, meaning the Chief of Peace of Walewale. The moment was met with widespread celebration, as cheers, drumming, and dancing filled the venue in honour of the newly enskinned Chief of Peace.

In his remarks, Mr. Jadeja expressed his appreciation to the Chief and elders for the honour and reaffirmed his commitment to continuing efforts to promote peace in the area.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of certificates and medals to the graduating participants, marking a significant milestone in their journey as young peace leaders.



ASFIT and Partners Convene Livestock Production, Financial Management, and Marketing Skills Training in the North East region. Training in the North East Region



As part of the 'Bridging the Gap: Promoting Socio-Economic Inclusion, Social Cohesion, and Peacebuilding for Vulnerable Communities' project, African Students for Interfaith Tolerance (ASFIT), in partnership with CDD-Ghana and with support from the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), organized a 10-day capacity-building training for fifty (50) participants drawn from ten (10) project communities in the North East Region of Ghana.

The training commenced with a three-day intensive session focused on financial literacy and marketing skills, equipping participants with essential knowledge in basic financial management, savings, and market access. This was followed by a comprehensive module on ruminant livestock production, which combined classroom learning with practical field visits to demonstration sites to enhance hands-on experience and real-world understanding.



The training enhanced participants' knowledge of improved livestock practices in goat, sheep, and poultry rearing, including feeding, housing, breeding, and disease control. Participants were also equipped with basic record-keeping and business management skills, supporting sustainable livelihoods and resilience-building among vulnerable households.

During a debrief session, participants commended the facilitators for simplifying complex concepts, maintaining an engaging and participatory learning environment, and encouraging active involvement throughout the training. They particularly appreciated the practical field components, which helped translate theory into actionable skills applicable to their livelihoods.



Partners page



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Connect with us

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Advancing Youth Peace and Security in Ghana: Reflections from Young People