

Brightpath Global Foundation

Monthly News Letter

April 2026 Edition

THE NORTHERN REGION YOUTH DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION FORUM 2026

WE SHOWED UP FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

On Thursday, 16th April 2026, Brightpath Global Foundation made history in Tamale.The Northern Region Youth Drug AbusePrevention Forum 2026 brought hundreds of students, policymakers, health professionals, and community leaders together at Radach Lodge and Conference Centre, united by one conviction: that the young people of the Northern Region deserve better than silence on the issue of drug abuse. The day was loud, honest, emotional, and exactly what it needed to be.



WHAT STUDENTS LEFT WANTING

WE SHOWED UP FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

94.5% of students arrived at this forum believing it could make a real difference. In the breakout sessions that followed the main programme, facilitators reported some of the most open and honest conversations they had witnessed in any youth setting. Students talked about stress and mental health. About social mediaand the normalisation of drug culture. About friends they were worried about and didn't know how to help. About the shame that keeps people silent. The most common theme across every





The Day In Numbers

- ☑ 420 students submitted pre-event evaluations
- ☑ 12 institutions participated; 7 Senior High Schools and 5 Tertiary Institutions
- ☑ 6 expert speakers took the stage
- ☑ Two live drama performances brought the message to life
- ☑ Two rehabilitation centre professionals presented directly to students
- ☑ Two personal testimonies from rehabilitated former drug users
- ☑ One poetry performance by Osman Elham
- ☑ 10 facilitated breakout sessions ran concurrently

WHAT THE STUDENTS TOLD US BEFORE IT EVEN STARTED

Before a single speaker took the stage, we already had a picture of the crisis. Of the 420 students who completed our pre-event evaluation: 91.4% said drug abuse is a very big problem in their schools and communities. 83.6% identified peer pressure as the leading reason young people use drugs. 1 in 4 students had already personally felt pressure to try alcohol, drugs, or another substance.1 in 3 did not know what to do or where to go if someone they knew was struggling. These are not abstract statistics. These are the students who were sitting in that hall — with lived experience of the problem, and a genuine hunger for someone to show up with answers.

THE FORUM DELIVERED

The programme opened with a powerful welcome address from our Special Guest of Honour, **Hon. Ali Adolf John,** Northern Regional Minister, whose presence sent a clear message: that the leadership of this region sees its young people and is willing to stand with them.

Six expert speakers addressed the forum, covering drug abuse from governance, social, youth development, and community perspectives. Two of them; **Dr. Susana Annan and Mr. Peter Mintir Amadu,** came as representatives of our rehabilitation centre partners, bringing the clinical and practical realities of addiction and recovery directly to a student audience that had never heard it framed that way before.

Two Senior High Schools, **GHANASCO** and **Kalpohini Senior High** School, performed live drama pieces that captivated the hall, telling the stories of young people navigating peer pressure, consequence, and choice. Several students were visibly moved. Many were cheering. All of them were paying attention.

The testimonies from two rehabilitated former drug users were described by facilitators as the most emotionally resonant moments of the entire day. There is something that no speaker, no expert, and no drama performance can replicate, and that is the voice of someone who has been inside the darkness and found their way back to the light.

Poet **Osman Elham** closed the formal programme with a performance that distilled everything the day had been trying to say into language that was felt as much as it was heard.

THE FORUM WAS ONLY PHASE ONE

The Northern Region Youth Drug Abuse Prevention Forum 2026 was the first phase of Brightpath Global Foundation's Substance Abuse Awareness and Prevention Initiative (SAAPI).

Phase Two begins in May 2026.

Our teams and volunteers will take the conversations from that hall directly into homes, ghettos, streets, and focus groups across Tamale, through a **twelve-day community outreach** campaign running every first and third weekend of the month from May through August 2026.

We will be identifying people in need of rehabilitation and connecting them directly to our partner organisations. We will be cooking meals and sitting with people who have been forgotten. We will be going where the crisis actually lives, and meeting it there.

Alongside the outreach, we will be establishing **Drug Prevention Clubs** in selected schools, creating permanent, student-led platforms for peer advocacy, mentorship, and sustained awareness. Each club will be supported by a **trained focal person,** someone who knows the community, knows the students, and has been equipped to make this work last long after the cameras are gone.







THANK YOU

None of this happened alone.

Phase Two begins in May 2026.

To our health and rehabilitation partners, **TOLECGH, Aisha Hospital,** and the **Tamale Teaching Hospital Mental Health Department,** thank you for lending your credibility and expertise to a conversation that desperately needed it.

To **Hon. Ali Adolf John** and every government official who showed up, thank you for showing young people that their wellbeing is a matter of public priority.

To our speakers, facilitators, drama performers, and poet, thank you for giving yourselves to a room full of young people who will carry what you said with them for a very long time.

To **Fad Lan** and **Wiz Child,** thank you for adding your voice to ours.

And to every student who walked through those doors on the 16th of April, thank you for showing up. For being honest. For raising your hand. For asking the hard questions. You are the reason this work exists.











