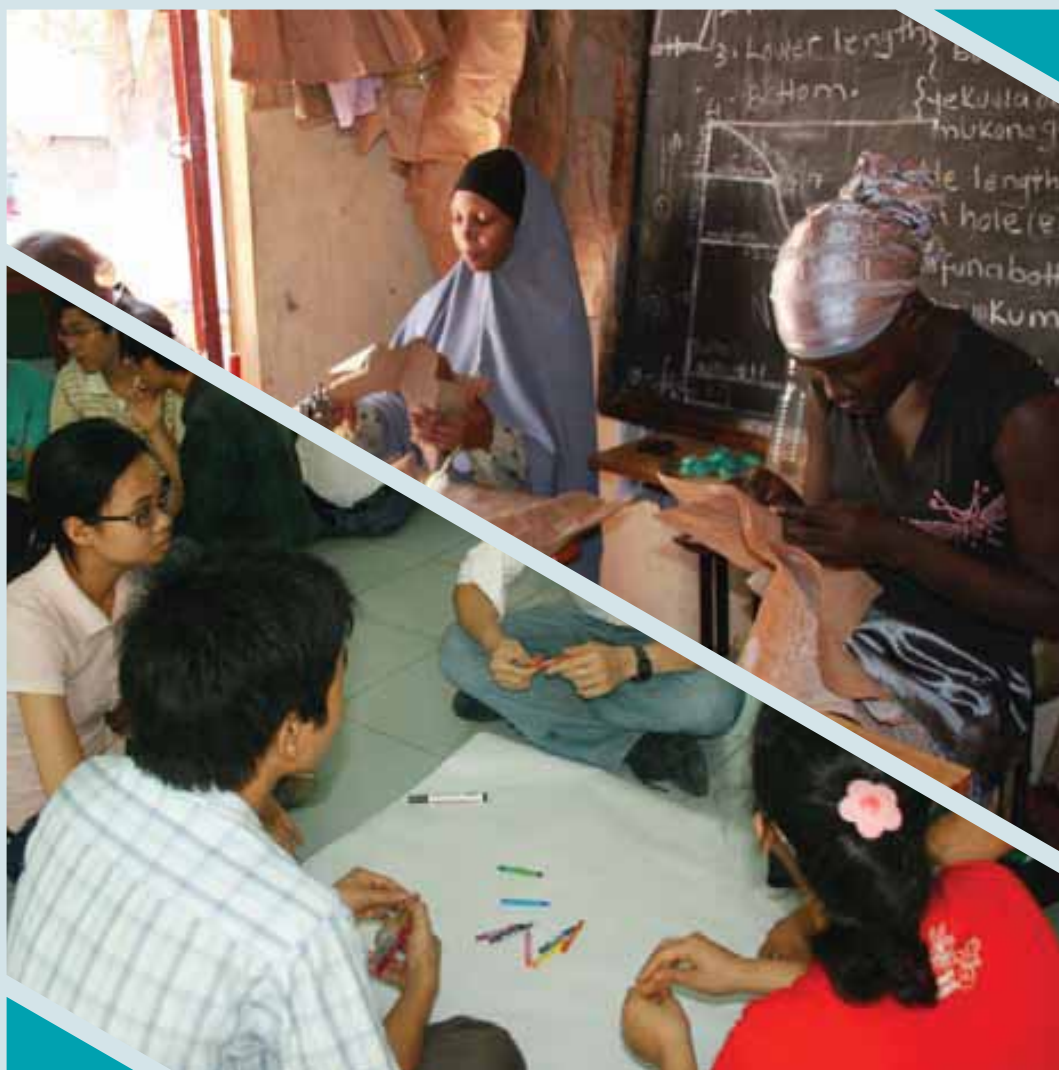


EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS FROM THE URBAN YOUTH FUND GRANTEES IN AFRICA AND ASIA



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The **Experiences and Lessons from the Urban Youth Fund** report is the third report in the Global Youth-Led Development series. Informed by in-depth case studies of 13 youth fund funded projects, it analyzes experiences and lessons-learned from these projects. In contrast to the first two reports, it is having a more in-depth focus on a few selected projects. The reader is encouraged to read the two first reports to put these findings into a larger context of youth-led development.

All reports in the series are available at www.globalyouthdesk.org/research

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FOREWORD

This report is the third volume the Global Youth-Led Development Series, a collection of themed papers created to expand the knowledge in the area of youth-led development. Youth-led development (YLD) is a term first popularized by organizations such as Peacechild International to reflect a faith in the power of young people to contribute constructively to the good of society.¹ YLD places youth at the centre of their own and their communities' development, moving youth from passive receptors of development, to agents of positive change.

Building on Peacechild's definition, UN-Habitat in 2005 published a report leading up to the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, which looked at YLD as practiced by youth-led agencies.² This report was a critical step in building an evidentiary base for YLD, as it focused on self-organized youth, and explored how these YLD agencies can become more than the sum of their parts through collective action. The report's conclusions became part of the basis for UN-Habitat's development of new YLD programmes, supported by the Government of Norway. In 2007, UN-Habitat convened representatives from its four One Stop Resource Youth Resource Centres based in East Africa to identify principles and promising practices for YLD. From this meeting a series of training manuals was developed for the One Stop Centres based on those principles.

UN-Habitat continued to develop innovative YLD programmes with the launching of the Urban Youth Fund in 2008. The Fund, one of the first of its kind, was created to support youth-led initiatives globally.

To inform the fund a number of research projects were undertaken, further exploring the role of youth-led agencies in development. Informed by earlier findings from a web-based survey of youth-led development initiatives, additional research was conducted on the organizational context, functioning, and capacity of youth-led initiatives, by analyzing the Urban Youth Fund grantees from 2011 and 2012. This report presents 13 case studies of Fund grantees, looking both at the successes and challenges of the groups.

Together, the Global Youth Led Development series of papers forms a mosaic that sheds light on how youth are positively impacting their community. This report series emphasizes how youth can be assets to their communities, and how local, national and international governments can both engage and support youth and youth-led initiatives. Research for each paper in the series draws on cutting edge research in this newly acknowledged area of youth development. Lessons from this series provide a knowledge base from which youth and those interested in working with youth can develop programmes and policies that assure youth's meaningful engagement in community development. The series seeks to demonstrate the complexities of youth-led development, while as well inspiring people to action. In the end, this series aims to contribute new insights to the emerging global dialogue on youth-led development.

¹ Woolcombe, D. (2007). *Youth-Led Development Empowering Youth To Make Poverty History*

² Ragan, D. (2005). *Child and Youth Friendly City Dialogue paper*

INTRODUCTION

This report presents preliminary findings from 13 Urban Youth Fund grantees from Africa and Asia and the Pacific region. The grantees include 8 youth-led organizations from Africa and 6 grantees from the Asia and Pacific. The report was compiled to provide basic guidance to the Urban Youth Fund program and to share experiences, lessons and recommendations through the Global Youth Help Desk and the Global Youth Research Network.

Assessment of the Urban Youth Fund grantees presented in this report is guided by the following research questions:

- To what extent is the Urban Youth Fund generating decent and sustainable jobs for urban youth?
- What, if anything, is the role of the Urban Youth Fund in generating and strengthening local partnerships and capacity building for urban youth employment creation?
- How has the Fund, if at all, impacted youth directly?

I conducted virtual interviews with project coordinators through Skype to gather experiences from organizations whose projects are reported here. Some background information was also gathered from websites in cases where the grantee has a functioning website. The report summarizes experiences from the following organizations: Community Youth Mobilization (Zambia); Endurance Youth Association (Ethiopia); Youth Action International- Uganda; Tears Group Kenya; Friends of the Habitat (Nigeria); Youth Partnership for Peace and Development (Sierra Leone); Concerned Youth Organization (Malawi); Tanzania Development Forum for Youth; Team for Nature and Wildlife (Nepal); Participatory Development Initiatives (Pakistan); Sindh Community Foundation (Pakistan); Youth Entrepreneurs and Sustainability Education (Vietnam) and Aware Girls (Pakistan).



Jeremiah and Michael roofing the house under construction
© UN-Habitat

CASE STUDY 1: **COMMUNITY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT** ZAMBIA

Making a Difference in the Life of Youth

by *Abisheck Musonda & Tizai Mauto*

GROWING up in a shanty compound in Africa does not often provide opportunities for better future living for many youths. Life in shanty compounds is difficult and, without education, many youths turn to vices such as alcohol and drug abuse. With unemployment levels reaching a new peak in Zambia, many youths are finding it extremely difficult to cope when they enter the employment age.

Community Youth Mobilization (CYM) created the Community Youth Empowerment Project (C-YEP) in 2009. The project was designed to help address the growing unemployment levels among youth in Zambia. C-YEP recognized the gaps in the government's efforts to address the problem of unemployment and created an empowerment project that would help young people access much needed skills training and financial credit to create employment for themselves. The project included two products :

1. the Entrepreneurship Skills Training(EST) :
Various trainings are organized, allowing young people to learn a skill that will help them find employment or start a business.

2. the Entrepreneurship Support Funds(ESF) :
Small support funds are provided to the young people as a credit to turn their small businesses into successful big enterprises. A maximum of \$400 is provided to young people willing to start their own businesses after their graduation from training. The \$400 provided to the graduates constitutes about 60% of the required start-up capital and graduates have to secure the remaining 40% from elsewhere.



There is a large number of youths doing business in the informal sector in Zambia. The informal sector is the biggest employing sector in the country.

Access to financial credit by many youths who lack collateral is one of the major hindrances to improving the small businesses run by the youth.



C-YEP has helped hundreds of male and female youths to start their own businesses and/or to find employment after successful entrepreneurship skills training. In just a few years, C-YEP has grown into a sustainable project in three districts.



Jeremiah and Michael roofing the house under construction

C-YEP Success Stories

“Skills Training Gave Us a New Beginning”

Jeremiah Chirwa and Michael Chisanga, aged 23 and 22 years respectively, are both from poor families from the Kawama compound in Kabwe district. When another session of training conducted by CYM was announced in their community, they did not hesitate to enroll for a skills training program under C-YEP. “We just wanted to try something because there was nothing we were doing,” says Jeremiah. The two were among the 20 member group that was recently trained in carpentry under C-YEP.

Following the training, C-YEP formed four business groups and empowered them with tool kits and start-up capital for carpentry businesses. “It was good to work in groups,” says Michael, “C-YEP had taught us how to run a business so we had no problems.” Jeremiah points out that him and Michael, however, requested to pull out of the business group and take on another kind of business in carpentry. “We were not making enough money doing carpentry bench works only...Customers were also not very easy to find,” says Michael. Jeremiah and Michael decided to partner up and took advantage of the booming construction industry in Zambia to start constructing roofs on newly built houses. “We are now making very good money. I have even managed to buy a small plot to build my own small

house,” declares Jeremiah. Michael says his younger sister is back in school as he can now manage to pay for her school requirements.

“Life has greatly changed for us...that skills training gave us a new beginning in life,” agrees both of them. The two make as much as US\$500 to roof a medium house in Kabwe district. Jeremiah and Michael, now self-employed after following the C-YEP skills training program, plan to start their own skills training program for other youths living in vulnerable communities.

Gershom Mwale - A force Behind Gemm General Dealers



Gershom busy preparing his work with one of his employees. Gemm General Dealers is set to expand its printing business in Kabwe in 2011

Printing business has a lot of market in Kabwe. Many businesses trek down to Lusaka for their printing jobs. However, this will soon be a thing of the past.

Gershom Mwale, a young local entrepreneur, has stepped in to provide printing services for business owners in the town, after accessing support funds from CYM. “As soon as I heard about the Community Youth Empowerment Project (C-YEP) I did not hesitate to visit CYM for the Entrepreneurship Support Funds,” he says, adding that his business is now doing very well.



Gershom with one of his employees at his Gemm General Dealers office

Gershom started his business with a small printing machine but after realizing how big the printing market was in Kabwe, he approached CYM to apply for support funds. “I wanted to buy a big color printer for my business in Kabwe. I had a lot of printing orders but was unable to service them all,” he recounts. “I used to take all these orders to Lusaka and that was costly. Now I can do everything at once here in Kabwe.” The new machine has helped cut down on costs of doing his business as Gershom no longer travels to Lusaka for his printing jobs.

“You don’t know how much your / C-YEP support funds have helped turn around my business... What you’re doing with empowerment funds is a very good idea... Now my business has increased by over 50% in just five months. I even have two employees now,” he says.

“

CYM’s Community Youth Empowerment Project (C-YEP) is changing the small businesses of the youths accessing it.

”

As a result of the ESF, Gershom’s business has grown. Impulsing the company to reach greater heights. Gershom has, as such, opened an outlet within Kabwe in an effort to meet the growing demand for printing business. Gershom looks forward to having his printing company becoming well established so as to compete with big companies that take up much of the printing contracts in the country. This is the dream Gershom is working hard to have it realized.

“Come, See How My Business Has Grown!”



Hairdressing training

22-year old Paxina Chimfwembe is a beneficiary of the Entrepreneurship Support Fund (ESF) which she used to grow her small salon business. Paxina’s business is located in Kamushanga compound in Kabwe, 7km north of Kabwe Business Centre. Kamushanga has a population of over 4,000, the majority of whom are unemployed youth.

She started her business in 2008 after all efforts to get to college failed. “I’m the 8th in a family of 9 children. After completing high school I desired to enter college but my mother couldn’t afford,” she said. This was, however, not the end of the road for Paxina, who still has ambitions to go to college. “My mother gave me some little money and I used it to start a small salon to raise money for my college,” she explained.

Paxina started her business and brought in brought in two other young girls to help her. However, the business was not doing well as she did not have the necessary equipment. Things got worse when her mother died in 2009 and she had to live with her sister. Paxina kept her business up although it was difficult to make enough money from the business. “My sister continued to encourage me not to give up. I needed money to improve because I could see that there was good salon business here. In February 2010, I heard from some marketers here that there were funds for small business like mine given by CYM and I immediately applied,” she says.

“I got a US\$400 to inject into my business... Before I accessed financial help from CYM, my business was not doing fine. I didn’t have equipment like dryers which meant I had just a few customers. I made on average just a US\$100 per month which was only enough to pay rentals and a few things for my shop, it was very difficult,” recalls Paxina. She says she now makes monthly profits ranging from US\$300 to US\$350. “I’m very happy for this support from CYM, there was no where else to get it from,” she puts forth.

Paxina’s business dreams were further realized when CYM selected her to participate in a business capacity building workshop, for recipients of ESF, funded by UN-Habitat. The workshop trained participants in business and financial management skills needed for them to manage their growing businesses grow following funding from CYM.

“

Only youth who do not have formal jobs are eligible to receive vocational skills training through CYM

”



Rural community members listen to CYM AIDS Awareness Campaign during the 2005 World AIDS Day. © CYM

“The training helped me to know how to save and invest my profits...Come see how my business has grown.” Paxina says she was happy for the flexible conditions that C-YEP has put in place for young people to access credit for their small businesses, which they cannot access from anywhere else because they have no collateral.

C-YEP’s Achievements

CYM estimates that 80% of C-YEP’s impacts are felt by youth beneficiaries and the remaining 20% are felt by the youth’s parents and/or their children. Youth entrepreneurs provide financial credits to adult members who, in turn, use the money to cater for themselves and their children.

Since its inception, over 800 youths have accessed the ESF. Funds raised from minimal credit charges are also to support skills training activities and the small start-up capital for business groups formed after training.

The demand from other community members, especially women, means that the C-YEP will no longer just cater for youth. The C-YEP trained young women in dress making, food production and catering services. Some young women graduates have been able to access loans from the Entrepreneurship Support Fund (ESF). Some young women have already started tailoring and dress making enterprises after graduating from the C-YEP.

C-YEP aims to extend 10% of its activities to members of the wider community. This means that its volume of work will increase. Thus, the organization has decided to redesign the project to make it more autonomous from CYM and give it a full management structure to help address the growing demand for its services. Therefore, the Community Youth Empowerment Project (C-YEP) has now evolved into the Community Empowerment Fund (CEF). The CEF is managed by youth and includes sections responsible for marketing, finance, credit control and debt administration. It is expected that the CEF will become an organization on its own.



CASE STUDY 2: **ENDURANCE YOUTH ASSOCIATION (EYA)** ETHIOPIA

Driving urban youth out of poverty in Ethiopia

Endurance Youth Association is an Ethiopian, non-for-profit membership-based, charitable society concerned with and working towards empowering, opportunity neglected youths by strengthening their capacity through networking and catalyzing wider action across civil society and government at all levels for sustainable youth development (www.eya.org.et)

Youth unemployment is one of the main priorities of the Government of Ethiopia, and it's clearly supported through the National Youth Policy document and also the urban and rural youth development programs.

Youth aged 15-29 years-old make up 28% of Ethiopia's population and 74% are under the age of 35 years-old. Most urban youth in Ethiopia work in the despised informal economy.

“

Urban youth struggle to make ends meet in Ethiopia

”

With support from UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund, Endurance Youth Association launched the Helping Urban Opportunity Neglected Youth (HUONY) in 2009. The HUONY targeted youth aged 18-35 years-old according to African Youth Charter.

EYA launched HUONY project to provide training, business skills and business start-up loans to unemployed youth. The project focused on making vulnerable youth self-sufficient through inductive training and experience sharing. The HUONY Project supported those youth who completely lacked both formal and informal employment opportunities. EYA considered that those youth with informal businesses were already working and supporting themselves and their families and did not require urgent assistance.

According to EYA, the complex nature of informal businesses makes it harder for a single NGO/CSO to address the challenge. To deal with multifaceted urban youth challenges EYA would require adequate resource mobilization, volunteers, technical support and local funding to supplement funding from international development agencies

“

The issue of youth unemployment is serious and integrated effort between UN-Habitat and beneficiary organizations is required. Small-scale organizations can't adequately address the issue of youth unemployment alone.

”

Boosting youth graduates' access to working space and markets

Youth graduates access working space mainly through the assistance/permission of a small unit of government (WORDA). WORDAs provide small working space or shades which will be given to youth groups. There are 10 sub cities in the Ethiopian Capital, Addis Ababa. The 10 sub-cities have a combined total of 119 WORDAs and EYA is working in WORDA 01, 05 and 09 in Kolfe Keranio. EYA organized the youth before approaching the WORDAs to secure working space or shade for youth groups. Four youth groups with 5-8 members have already secured working space through the WORDAs. The youth groups who acquire land with the assistance of WORDAs pay much less rentals per month compared to those who acquire working space from private land owners.

“

10 youth groups with 53 youth members, including 25 young women and 28 young men benefited from the Helping Urban Opportunity Neglected Youth Project funded through the Urban Youth Fund

”

Youth graduates mostly work in groups making it easier for them to get start-up loans from EYA and to share knowledge and skills.

The EYA prioritizes the idea of having trainees and graduates work in groups as opposed to having them work as individuals. Having youth work in groups has proved to be cost effective for EYA since it has been possible to address multiple operational challenges with minimum resources. The youth groups specialize in diverse entrepreneurial activities ranging from animal husbandry, buying and selling of dairy products, wood and metal work, café or small coffee shops, hair salons, music and circus, and construction work.

Since 2012, EYA also began to work with individual youth entrepreneurs to encourage creativity and innovation among the trainees and graduates. The individual approach is also being encouraged following challenges experienced in some youth groups. Some youth graduates are not willing to work in groups given limited team spirit, conflicts and limited benefits. EYA also continues to encourage youth to form groups to share knowledge and skills and also facilitate access to working space through WORDAs and more importantly to secure start-up loans through joint collateral.

Obtaining collateral is a challenge for youth. Through EYA, youth groups can secure start-up loans with minimum collateral. The EYA gives youth groups a US\$2,500 interest-free business start-up loan through the Responsive Seed Sponsorship Fund (RSSF). EYA asks youth to bring a relative or friend earning a monthly salary of at least US\$29. Asking for some collateral increases responsibility among groups and encourages them to work hard. Some youth members in a group cannot get collateral at all but if the majority of group members get collateral, the RSSF will be released and some group members will provide collateral for those who

cannot. The \$2,500 RSSF start-up loan has been adequate for some businesses such as hair salons and coffee making but it has been inadequate for wood and metal work and large scale dairy business.

The EYA also offers conflict management training to help foster and sustain group projects

Empowerment Stories



Zuriash (center) and her team members at the Bisrat Café

Zuriash Teni is a 22 year old young female working in the kitchen at the Bisrat Café group enterprise in Addis Ababa. The group enterprise consists of 5 young females and 3 young men. Zuriash lives with her five young brothers and one sister. Her parents' income is not enough to feed the family and that is why she is working at the Bisrat Café. Zuriash and her group members first came to EYA looking for a loan even though they did not know what they were going to do with the loan. Zuriash and her business partners then participated in EYA training under the Helping Urban Opportunity Neglected Youth Project. After receiving the training from EYA, Zuriash and her group members secured a 45,000.00 birr (US\$2,647) loan to start their own small Bisrat Café.

“It’s a great opportunity to work as a group. We do have different experiences but collectively we make meaningful difference. After participating in the training, I developed confidence to step ahead, now I earn money from my job and am beginning to support my siblings. EYA and the Bisrat Cafe project changed my status.”

— Zuriash Teni

Tsige Haileselasie is a 29 year old young female who is energetic and passionate about her work. She was born in Mekle located 700 km from Addis Ababa and there she stayed with her father and a young sister. When Tsige was in high school, her father died in a car accident and she began fending for the survival of her sister and herself. She left Mekle and came to Addis Ababa with her sister looking for their mother who was living with their stepfather. In Addis Ababa, Tsige and her young sister began living with their mother but their stepfather was not happy about it. This forced Tsige and her sister to emigrate to the Middle East in search of a better life. In the Middle East, Tsige began working in a beauty hair salon whilst her younger sister worked as a house maid elsewhere. Unfortunately, Tsige’s young sister passed away and Tsige could not bear to stay in the Middle East because she was depressed. Tsige decided to return to Addis Ababa.



Tsige working at the Ten Group Hair Saloon

Back in Addis Ababa, Tsige had to live with her mother and stepfather again since she did not have a job to support herself. She married and even though her husband is working, Tsige still wanted to find a job and help supplement the family income. When Tsige learnt that Endurance Youth Association was giving training and financial support to organized and unemployed youth, she gathered her unemployed friends to join EYA's Opportunity Neglected Youth project. During the training, Tsige and her friends formed a group enterprise named Ten Group—a total of 10 unemployed youth with 7 young women and 3 young men. After the training, Tsige and her Ten Group friends started a women hair dressing salon and they got a 45,000.00 birr (US\$2647.00) loan from EYA .

“It is a good opportunity to work with Endurance for us because we get a loan without interest, that will be paid back within two years and this is enough time for our business to stand on its own. In addition, we took packages of training from EYA for team work, entrepreneurship, financial management, conflict management, communication skills—those trainings gave us various skills. If we work hard we can change ourselves. From now onwards, we can earn better salary from our job and we can help our families.”

— Tsige Haileselasie

Looking into the Future

The past three years of HUONY project have been very effective and EYA is planning to increase the number of youth beneficiaries by expanding the project to other WORDAs in Addis Ababa. EYA would require additional funding to scale-up the project and continue with the project. Large scale intervention is required for a remarkable transformation of young people's lives in populous Addis Ababa. EYA is only working in 3 WORDAs out of the 119 WORDAs in Addis Ababa. For now, the HUONY is continuing through June 2012 with funding from CORDAID.



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Tailoring students with their instructor (middle) during a class session. Most Mengo Youth Project beneficiaries come from Kisenyi, one of the biggest slums in Uganda. © YAI-Uganda

CASE STUDY 3: YOUTH ACTION INTERNATIONAL UGANDA

Transforming the lives of Ugandan Youth through Skills Training Kampala, Uganda

By Agnes a. Namiyingo & tizai mauto

Youth Action International

Youth Action International (YAI) is an international non-profit organization founded in 2005. The organization's mission is to provide education, health care and economic empowerment for children and young people living in post-war African countries. YAI's projects are guided by extensive research and dialogue with community members. YAI works on the ground in post-war Liberia, Uganda and Sierra Leone and in close partnership with local community groups, government ministries and NGOs to address issues of former child soldier reintegration; lack of economic and business opportunities; lack of training for women; and lack of access to education.

In Uganda, YAI works in six districts: Kampala, Jinja, Gulu, Karamoja, Rakai and Amuru. Uganda also serves as YAI's Regional Secretariat for East Africa. Through Family Empowerment programs, YAI has two principal functions :

1. Providing continuing education and skills training for adolescents unable to continue their studies due to limited formal education opportunities;

2. Stimulating local development and economic growth in much needed industries and trades.

Each YAI project is run by experts in the industry or trade for which it provides skills training. YAI provides start up grants and/or micro-credit loans to trained youths to start their own enterprises.

YAI's programmes target three different age groups : Childhood Development for the 0-12 years; Youth Development/ Empowerment for the 13-35 years; and Success 'Opportunity Meets Preparation' Program for Women targeting young women aged 13-35 years .

(www.youthactioninternational.org).

The Mengo Youth Development Link Vocational Skills Training project

Funded by Un-Habitat's Urban Youth Fund, the Mengo Youth Development Link Vocational Skills Training Project was implemented in the Mengo Kisenyi slum, where most youth migrants from rural areas and refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Southern Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia live.

The Mengo Project includes skills training in wood carving, making paper beads, tailoring, and tie and dye material making. The beneficiaries of the Mengo Youth Project are all from the informal economy with primary education as their highest level of education.

Transforming the lives of Ugandan Youth through Skills Training

Many youth have joined and benefited from YAI's project mainly because the training programme is free of charge. After the skills training period, students are also trained in business management, marketing, planning and customer care. The project benefited 60 young men and 140 young women 10-32 years-old. The project has become more visible and beneficiaries are positively transforming the face of crime-ridden Kisinye.

In 2009, 80 out of 120 students graduated from the project—40 of them are working in groups, 10 are working as individuals, 20 are attached to various experts in different skills trained at the center and 10 remain at the center working as tutors and helping with other projects.

“

The center is located 20km out of Kampala City in Mengo Kisenyi, one of the biggest slums in Kampala and Uganda. The center started with 100 beneficiaries and 80 of the students graduated in August 2009 with funding from UN-Habitat Opportunity Fund for Urban Youth-Led Development. YAI-Uganda has since recruited 150 more students, all of whom graduated in August 2011.

”

YAI today

YAI has learnt that organizations should carry out a needs assessment before a project begins, and that youth must be involved in every stage of project development. For better results, community leaders, parents and guardians of youth should also be involved in projects. YAI takes into consideration the fact that youths come from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds.

YAI believes that there should be more focus on job creation programmes as opposed to advocacy or programs to create awareness.

“

The center trains students in tailoring, bead making, wood carving and tie & dye making. Project beneficiaries include refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Ugandan rural-urban migrants. The center's instructors train beneficiaries in various languages including English, Swahili and Luganda—some of the languages commonly spoken in the slum areas.

4% of us are born entrepreneurs, the rest are made. Fund and train job creators and not job seekers.”

-Agnes Amooti Namiyango
(YAI-Uganda Program Coordinator)

”

Mengo Youth Development Link Vocational Skills Training Program in Pictures



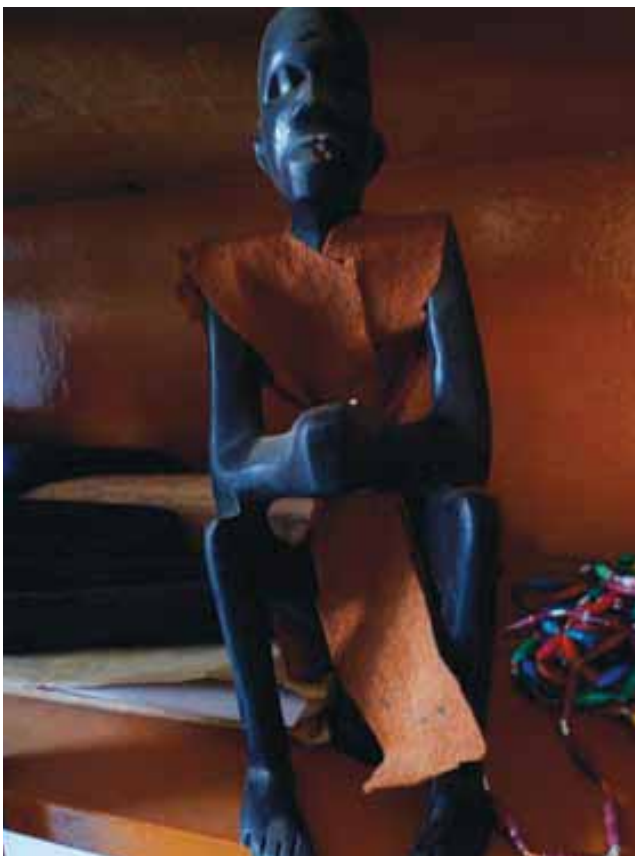
Paper beads made by the beneficiaries, made from old newspaper, magazines and other soft paper materials. The beads are sold locally to guests who visit the center and also to traders who sell them to international fashion stores. © YAI-Uganda



Students during a tailoring session at the center. Most girls prefer tailoring compared to young males who prefer wood carving and candle making. © YAI-Uganda



Beneficiaries translate theory into practice as the instructor trains them on how to make school uniforms. © YAI-Uganda



Standing man — a product from the wood carving classes. Trees are bought, cut and dried to design various wood products such as the small African Standing man, elephant kits for children, pig bank saving boxes, boats, photo frames and season's greetings wooden cards. © YAI-Uganda

The Mengo Youth Development Link Vocational Skills Program is still ongoing but has not yet been replicated in other areas. YAI plans to acquire a larger working space in order to expand its training center. It also plans to introduce skills training programs such as candle-making, soap making, cosmetology welding and juice making.



Beneficiaries with their instructor in blue assembling paper beads at the center. © YAI-Uganda



Beneficiaries displaying a table mat made out of recycled paper. © YAI-Uganda



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CASE STUDY 4: **TEARS GROUP KENYA** KENYA

Empowering youth through creative arts, Nakuru (Kenya)

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In 2010, Nakuru was named the fastest growing town in East Africa and yet the majority of Nakuru youth do not have decent jobs.

Youth comprise about 65% of the Nakuru population.

Comprehensive partnerships are required to effectively address the interconnected issues of urban poverty and youth development

”

Nakuru has been at the center of political violence, especially during national elections, in Kenya. Unemployed youth are the most dominant group of people in both the vigilante and political witch hunt groups, which are at the center of political and tribal conflicts. In 2010, Nakuru was named the fastest growing town in East Africa, yet the majority of Nakuru youth do not have decent jobs. High unemployment in the Nakuru community is mainly due to the collapse of many local manufacturing and processing industries such as the Kenya Farmers Association, Nakuru Tanners, and Rift Valley Textile, among others. The Kenyan education system has also contributed to youth unemployment by mainly focusing on academic skills instead of talents, mentorship, apprenticeship and vocational skills. In gen-

eral, the Nakuru Town case represents part of the Kenyan youth population, which comprises 65% of the total national population. Over the years, the Kenyan government has been reviewing the existing education system with a shift from classroom-based learning to a more practical and talent-based approach.

Considering the social and employment priorities of urban youth and the Kenyan government in general, the Tears Arts and Peace Empowerment Village (TAPEV), financially supported by the Urban Youth Fund, was implemented by the Tears Group Kenya (TGK)

Encouraging youth talents

Through the TAPEV Project, TGK has reached out to 49 informal workers (21-35 years-old) engaging in street vending, hawking and small scale businesses. The informal youth workers all received entrepreneurship and business development skills training. The training also included leadership application and value based decision making skills. Graduates from the TAPEV project have since formed youth groups such as SPEAK and Dance 5.6.7. Most graduates from the TAPEV Project form youth groups and partnerships while still undergoing training. In addition, while forming and working in groups, the TAPEV Project acts as an incubator for outgoing trainees, which offers advice and connections to available local resources.

The youth groups that have been formed include band clubs, a street art studio, and a clothing line establishment. Some TAPEV graduates are also using different community organization offices as space for product displays and marketing. Working in groups has made it easier for youth graduates to access available government resources, such as business licenses. The Music Department also has a musical band responsible for coordinating music and poetry in Nakuru Municipality. TGK has also initiated a music band and a visual arts network and encourages graduates to join other associations for expanded business opportunities.

Spotlight on Omari, the Theatre Group and the Music Band



Omari and the SolfaTamu Band members perform in Kisumu during the 2011 World AIDS Day Celebration in Kisumu, Kenya. © Tears Group Kenya

Omari (above in the brown jacket) joined TAPEV in October 2009 and completed in February 2010. He formed a three member band known as **Solfa-Tamu Band** in 2010. The band is currently among the leading local bands in Nakuru. Today he plays as lead guitarist and a soloist in the band. A journey and experience of four months shaped his destiny and passion, as he testifies.

The above photos were taken during a street band performance in Kisumu Kenya during 1st World AIDS Day celebration in 2011. Omari is among the few to get family support for talent Development in Kenya.



TAPEV Theatre Group on an outreach performance to recruit more youth into theatrical programs.

© tearsgroupkenya.org

The **Theatre Group** has also been successful in its performances across the Nakuru community. The performances are staged to raise money or as an outreach programme to recruit more youth from the community. The TAPEV Music department has established a **Musical Band** that is successfully coordinating music and poetry in the Nakuru Municipality.



TAPEV Music Band members compose music at the TAPEV Music Department in Nakuru. © tearsgroupkenya.org



CASE STUDY 5: **FRIENDS OF THE HABITAT** NIGERIA

Enhancing Youth Livelihoods through Skill Acquisition and Advocacy in Maiduguri, Nigeria

by Amina Abdullahi & Tizai Mauto

Over 23 million Nigerian youth are currently unemployed. The youth unemployment rate is over 28%. The daily lives of many urban youth in Nigeria are characterized by violence, crime and poverty. Frequent strikes by teachers at institutions of higher learning disrupt the education system. Even educated youth now find it very hard to secure decent jobs.

The employment situation in the city of Maiduguri is worsened by the presence of the violent Boko Haram sect, whose members are mostly unemployed youth. The struggles of young people to work and earn income in Maiduguri are also compounded by security forces and police deployed everywhere. In some cases, security forces hunt and shoot down innocent youth going about their everyday activities in the city. Despite the unbearable employment and security plight of youth in Maiduguri, most youth continue to engage in multiple livelihood activities. With support from the Urban Youth Fund, Friends of the Habitat (FoH) launched the Sustainable Youth Empowerment through Skill Acquisition and Advocacy Project (SYESAA) in Maiduguri in 2010.

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Roughly over 23 million Nigerians are unemployed.

”

Enhancing Youth Livelihoods through the SYESAA Project

Through SYESAA, youth beneficiaries can acquire different skills, including repairing and servicing small petrol engines, refurbishing old or scrap metal petrol generators for resale, baking of cakes, meat pies, doughnuts, and making fruit juices.

Most of the youth trained through SYESAA were from the slums. Many were former political thugs and youth who, without such skills, could easily have been used by unscrupulous people for their political gains.

All the SYESAA trainees were introduced to a micro-finance bank based in Maiduguri. 11 beneficiaries have since accessed loans from the bank. Five of the beneficiaries have already fully repaid their loans and are processing another loan for higher amounts for their individual projects. The first loan amount is up to 10,000 naira. After repayment, the beneficiary can apply for a higher amount with an acceptable guarantor. The repayments are made on monthly basis at the rate of 600 naira per month, and the loan is to be repaid after 10 months.

“

43 youth were trained in computer operating skills.

To minimize corruption, youth-led organizations should ensure transparency when selecting beneficiaries.

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Computer training sessions in progress.

© Friends of the Habitat

To this day, there are not many graduates who have secured jobs in the formal sector. Only one female has been employed by a foreign firm in Maiduguri. The rest are engaged in their own businesses, using their new skills to earn income on a daily basis. Many of the computer training beneficiaries are self-employed. Some of the beneficiaries have since gone back to school with the savings they were able to make. Overall, 40 male and 41 female youth directly benefited from the SYESAA Project.

“

Three youth who graduated with computer skills are working for other organizations.

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Due to very high financial and physical capital start-up requirements, the SYESAA graduates are all working as individuals in their livelihood activities. However, FoH is planning on introducing the youth graduates as a group to the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Youth Empowerment, hoping that this will strengthen advocacy on youth policy issues. During the training, FoH also approached the National Directorate of Employment requesting post-training mentorships with established businesses. The National Directorate of Employment has agreed to provide additional capital grants to the trainees and the grant is expected by mid-2012. Meanwhile, the wife of the Governor of Borno State has since identified FoH as one of the organizations that will help orphans and vulnerable children under her Mercy Vincent Foundation's Program. The partnership with the MVF will lead to more computers, training materials and allowances for trainers, which will improve the overall training program.



Computer training sessions in progress.

© Friends of the Habitat



SYESAA youth trainees repair generators.

© Friends of the Habitat

The SYESAA Project has generated the interest of other NGOs working in the community to reduce extreme poverty among youths and vulnerable children. However, replication of the project has so far only been done by trained beneficiaries themselves. Some graduates, such as generator repair technicians (pictured above), already set up workshops in the community where they reach out, train and employ other youth. FoH is negotiating with several partners to scale up training programs



SYESAA youth trainees repair generators.

© Friends of the Habitat



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Sangeeta Bhusal is working in farm development (Youth Empowerment for Green Job Project). © Team for Nature and Wildlife Nepal

SECTION 6: **TEAM FOR NATURE AND WILDLIFE NEPAL**

Generating Urban Youth Employment, Reversing Rural-Urban Migration, Nepal

Team for Nature and Wildlife (TNW) is a youth-led, non-profit non-governmental, social and environmental organization founded for the eco-friendly development of communities. It has been in 2007 and is affiliated with the Social Welfare Council of the Nepal government. The organization works on the 3 Es: Education, Economy and Environment involving children, youth, and women as the main beneficiaries.

Rural-urban migration is a serious problem in Nepal and most rural to urban migrants are youth in search of employment opportunities in cities. Through funding from UN-Habitat's Urban Youth Fund, Team for Nature and Wildlife (TNW), launched the Youth Empowerment for Green Job Project (YEGJ).

YEGJ aims to help the unemployed and needy youth in Kathmandu Valley to pursue environmentally friendly jobs. Youth graduates from the YEGJ project are engaged in some form of self-directed peri-urban or rural agricultural activities ranging from organic vegetable farming, bee-keeping, floriculture, to poultry farming. TNW reverses rural-urban migration by encouraging and further supporting youth graduates to start entrepreneurial activities in rural and peri-urban areas.

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“The bureaucratic procedures youth have to undergo to register their informal enterprises require major assistance from committed organizations and TNW has trained youth working in the informal economy and assisted them with the registration of their enterprises after the training.”

Mr BK Dalit
(President, TNW)

”

Young People's Access to Working Space and Markets

Upon graduation from the training, access to farming land is a serious problem in urban Kathmandu, mainly because housing provision is prioritized over urban farming. However, youth graduates can easily secure land for activities such as vegetable farming and bee-keeping in peri-urban and rural areas. The fact that youth graduates mostly access idle land for farming activities in peri-urban and rural areas has seen an increased number of youth going back to start farming activities in rural areas where they originally came from. TNW plays a central role in securing farming land for the youth graduates. The peri-urban and rural land used by the graduates is mostly held by private individuals and TNW negotiates access to farming land on behalf of youth graduates. TNW also pays around \$US200 per year to lease one hectare of land for youth in peri-urban areas. Farming land is usually cheaper

and abundant in far-off rural areas, where the maximum payment is around \$US100 per hectare annually. Youth do not require any licensing to conduct farming in peri-urban and rural areas—private land owners simply require youth to have some recommendation from TNW and be citizens of Nepal.

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Access to farming land is a serious problem in urban Kathmandu, mainly because housing provision is prioritized over urban farming.

The peri-urban and rural land used by the graduates is mostly held by private individuals and TNW negotiates access to farming land on behalf of youth graduates

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Spotlight on Mr. Rai Bahadur Rai



Mr Rai is a 36-year old young man who received training in organic compost production, organic vegetable farming, bee-keeping, and floriculture under TNW's Youth Empowerment for Green Job Project. During the training at TNW, Mr. Rai learnt more about the value of team work for the success of any business. After the training, he inspired some of his TNW colleagues to set up an agro cooperative. TNW facilitated in the formation of the agro cooperative which has been formally registered as the Himalayan Agricultural Cooperative (HAC).



Cooperative members working in the farm.

© Team for Nature and Wildlife Nepal

Mr. Rai became the General Manager and General Secretary of the HAC. Following the formation of the HAC, Mr. Rai and his friends moved back to rural Kathmandu where they took two hectares of land on lease for mushroom farming and off-season organic vegetable farming. Under the guidance of TNW, the HAC plans to establish an “Organic School” to provide education and training to young people on organic farming. More than 100 existing farmers became share holders in the HAC and the HAC now has a capital fund of NRs. 4 million. The HAC cooperative has since grown to become the biggest agro cooperative in the district. Moving forward, the HAC's mission is to continuously supply cheaper organic vegetables to the people of Kathmandu and beyond.

The Himalayan Agricultural Cooperative with an annual operating budget of about \$US63,100 (NRs 5,000,000) has emerged as a solid business platform for youth farmers. The Cooperative is made up of 113 stakeholders, most of them youth. It has acquired two hectares of land in a rural district named Solukhumbu, with the help of TNW. There are currently only 11 female youth members in the Himalayan Agricultural Cooperative and TNW has recommended that 50% of shareholders in the cooperative be females. Two more cooperatives are currently under way—one in the area of bee keeping and the other one in home making enterprises.

Spotlight on Ms. Sangeeta Bhusal — a young female farmer & entrepreneur



Ms. Sangeeta is a 22-year old woman, currently studying for a Bachelors in Business Studies (BBS 3rd year) at the Sankar Dev Campus in Kathmandu. Ms. Sangeeta has always been interested in organic vegetable farming. Following TNW's Youth Empowerment for Green Job Project, Ms. Sangeeta got an opportunity to receive training in organic compost production, organic vegetable farming and entrepreneurship.

Through the assistance of TNW, Ms. Sangeeta has been connected to local agro-businesses and this has made it easier for her to market and sell her organic vegetables. In addition to organic vegetable and tomato farming, Ms. Sangeeta will soon commence livestock production as means to generate organic compost and extra income from selling milk and milk products. Recently, TNW facilitated a collateral free loan amounting to NRs 1.5 lakh for Ms. Sangeeta so she could expand her farmland to 7 ropanis and begin organic tomato farming as well. Ms. Sangeeta is currently paying NRs. 8000.00 (\$US100) per year per ropani of land. Ms. Sangeeta has emerged as one of the most successful young female agro-entrepreneurs in Kathmandu and she has been featured in local newspapers and media.

Most youth graduates are conducting their farming activities as individuals or in small groups allowing them to combine resources together and earn profits from their businesses. TNW continues to offer advice and support to the young graduate entrepreneurs as needed.

Striving for a Gender Balance in Youth Empowerment

TNW recruited trainees for the YEGJ project on a 1:1 basis or 50% female and 50% male. Mainstreaming female youth employment is evident in the activities of YEGJ graduates. Eleven female youth members have formed a vegetable farming group; two female youth engage in composting and earn about \$80 per month; seven female youth have formed a Candle Entrepreneurship Group in which they make and sell quality candles, earning about \$300 per month; and 25 other young women are engaged in both floriculture and vegetable farming—they are currently selling seedlings to the market and plan to scale up their operations to provide opportunities for other young females in the community.



Sangeeta working on her newly leased land.

© Team for Nature and Wildlife Nepal

Reaching Out to Informal Youth

The YEGJ Project has mostly targeted youth residing in slum areas and whose livelihoods are dependent on the informal economy. According to TNW President, the lengthy bureaucratic procedures for youth to register their informal enterprises require major assistance from committed organizations. TNW has trained youth working in the informal economy and assisted them with the registration after the training. TNW is focused on having the graduates register their businesses with the Department of the Small and Cottage Industries and Office of Company Registration under the Ministry of Industries and Commerce.

The Youth Empowerment for Green Jobs Today

TNW currently lacks enough funding to train youth on a long-term basis. Training can only be conducted for few days due to limited funding. TNW aspires to be a leading global youth-led NGO in the provision of eco-friendly youth entrepreneurship and eco-friendly community development. TNW believes that it is part of a global social movement to raise awareness regarding the importance of promoting environmentally friendly youth entrepreneurship activities. TNW is currently in talks with local business organizations to launch a Youth Entrepreneurship Award (YEA).

TNW has also launched the Youth Entrepreneurship Campaign (YEC) 2020 as a means to expand on the YEGJ project. With YEC 2020, TNW seeks to have at least 2020 successful youth entrepreneurs in Nepal by the year 2020. However, lack of adequate financial support has hindered progress. For instance, about five hundred youth have already applied for full training with TNW but there is currently no funding to train them.



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About 75% of youth recruited for training by TNW reside in slum areas and 50% of the trainees completely depend on the informal economy for their livelihoods.

Most youth graduates prefer to work in groups so they can use combined financial resources instead of private bank loans.



SECTION 7: **CONCERNED YOUTH ORGANIZATION MALAWI**

ICT for Youth Development, Blantyre (Malawi)

In Malawi, access to computer skills and knowledge is limited to the few young people who can afford the fees for colleges which offer computer training. There are also a few others whose schools have computer learning facilities. Many of the Community Day Secondary Schools (CDSS), which are attended by the majority of secondary school students, do not have computer training facilities. Records show that there are 15,741 students attending 108 CDSS in the South West Education Division. The majority of them do not have computer training at their schools.

The Concerned Youth Organization (CYO) and the Blantyre City Council, with funding from the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-Led Development of the UN-Habitat, jointly implemented the ICT for Youth Development project, aimed at training the youth in computer skills in 2010-2011. As a result, youth were economically empowered for the betterment of their livelihoods and that of their communities..

The project was initiated with the understanding that basic computer knowledge is a key requirement for youth seeking employment. In addition, it has been proven that basic computer knowledge can quickly and easily be translated into entrepreneurial endeavors by way of self-employment. This is evidenced from the boom in the computer services ca-

fes offering secretarial and Internet services. To this end, the objectives of the ICT for Youth Development Project were:

- to equip young people with computer knowledge, build capacity of the youth towards establishing micro-enterprises in ICT
- to increase access to information and knowledge sharing among the youth through Internet,
- to raise youth's chances and competitiveness towards employment.

Impact of the ICT Project on Youth Beneficiaries and the Community

Through the ICT project, 120 underprivileged students with equal gender representation, particularly those attending CDSSs within the City of Blantyre, were offered full scholarships and training in basic computer knowledge. The students were trained in Microsoft WORD, EXCEL, ACCESS, POWER POINT, PUBLISHER, and Internet surfing for two weeks. Upon completion, the students graduated with certificates of attendance and a training manual.

“

About 90% of Community Day Secondary Schools in Malawi do not have access to internet

120 youth including 60 females and 60 males have benefited from the CYO ICT Project

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First and third training sessions in progress with Facilitators. © **Concerned Youth Organization Malawi**

Testimonials From Beneficiaries

The reception of the project among various stakeholders went remarkably well. The project not only caught the interest of the youth in beneficiary CDSS's but also raised the interest in ICT and the use of computers. Furthermore, the teachers and the youth not attending school, have also expressed interest in the training. They have asked if the training could be extended to others.

"The keen interest demonstrated by the South West Education Division was of great value through their approval of the how great the need for computer training in our schools is. Therefore, when CYO approached us offering this training to our students, we did not delay to scrutinize the project concept and implementation plans for satisfaction of our requirements. In the same vein, we commend CYO for coming up with this initiative... and ask them to extend this project to more schools and to increase the number of students it is enrolling from each school..."

Unique and Strong Partnership with Blantyre City Council

By design, the ICT project has two main implementing partners: Concerned Youth Organization as the principal implementer and Blantyre City Council as the financial facilitator. This arrangement took advantage of the already existing cordial and long time working relationship between the two institutions.

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"The world is becoming more computerized thus we needed the computer packages taught in ICT for Youth Development for us to cope with life"

Daniel Gulaimfa

(Student at Chirimba Community Day Secondary School)

”

The roles of the Concerned Youth Organization during the implementation of the ICT Project included: conducting project awareness initiatives, project planning; leading procurement of project equipment and materials, recruitment of beneficiaries and trainers, logistical arrangements, co-ordination and supervision of training, communication, organization of graduation, and project reporting.

The roles of the Blantyre City Council included administration of the project finances, hosting of training sessions and graduations, monitoring and evaluations, leading in short listing of beneficiary schools, advising and supporting procurement of project materials and meetings.

The Road Ahead

CYO has been inspired by the warm reception and support the project has received. The ICT Project generally matches with the current global ICT development initiatives; addresses the interest of non-benefitting youth and in many cases it allows teachers in Community Day Secondary Schools to have a chance to access computer training skills. To this end, CYO is already working on ways of replicating the project to the entire City of Blantyre. The Concerned Youth Organization plans to continue offering computer training to youth in the city. The Blantyre City Council expressed interest in continuing to partner with CYO, and they promised that CYO will still use the same room for trainings. In terms of funding, the beneficiaries will pay a reasonable amount which will be set aside for computer maintenance. Some institutions also expressed interest in supporting the sustainability of the ICT Project.

“

“The students will need the acquired computer skills in the professional training they will undertake after their secondary school studies”

Mr Edmond Mwenefumbo

(Teacher, Chirimba Day Secondary School)

”

“


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CASE STUDY 8: **TANZANIA DEVELOPMENT FORUM FOR YOUTH TANZANIA**

Empowering Youth through a One Stop Information and Discussion Forum in Tanzania

By Tizai Mauto

Tanzania Development Forum for Youth

Tanzania Development Forum for Youth (TDFY) is a non-governmental, non-partisan, not-for profit, youth-led organization, established in 2005. TDFY's vision is to see sustainable development largely driven by youth perspectives and initiatives. TDFY's main strategic objectives include fostering development and democracy through the provision of civic education/awareness; raising HIV/AIDS awareness with priority to young people in pastoral societies; provision of a forum for conflict resolution between pastoral and agricultural communities; and enhancing young people's engagement in agricultural and business activities

Since 2007, TDFY, in collaboration with other stakeholders, has implemented other major projects including the Compact Seminar Series on Development, the establishment of Youth Network in Tanzania, and the E-Agricultural Portal.

(www.tdfy.org).

Harnessing internet power in youth-led initiatives

Vijana Forum is a project of TDFY, initially supported by UN-Habitat Opportunity Fund for Urban Youth-Led Development in 2009 and implemented from 2010 to 2011.

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About 21 million Tanzanians, most of them urban youth, have access to internet through mobile phones.

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The Vijana Forum makes productive use of the internet. The project seeks to empower youth in Tanzania through a one-stop information center and a Forum, enhancing, as such, youth mobilization and networking, youth employment and community development.

“

Lack of information and networking opportunities negatively impact the well-being of youth in Tanzania.

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Vijana Forum launching in Dar es Salaam. © TDFY

As more and more young people gain access to the internet, including rural youth, the Forum will improve rural youth's access to information and livelihood opportunities. The Forum intends to erase technology boundaries between urban and rural youth and enhance rural-urban networks. It acts as a meeting point for young Tanzanians in the diaspora and for those at home. Based on ideas from youth from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, the Forum will be customized to meet the needs of every Tanzanian youth. It is an online platform where young people can share and discuss current state of affairs in Tanzania. The Forum ensures that Tanzanian youth with access to internet can quickly spread breaking news, especially in regards to issues that directly impact young people's well being. As

such, youth participants on the Forum are regularly updated on important events and decisions that may impact on their everyday lives.

The Vijana Forum is also an online, one-stop information center gathering digital documents, testimonials, stories and recent photographs and videos of youth activities countrywide. Wherever possible, the Info. Center allows live streaming and audio files, including podcast to be downloaded by free-form phone software LAM application. The resources provided on the Info. Center enable youth to make informed and precise decisions on issues that directly or indirectly affect their day-to-day lives.

The Future of the Vijana Forum

Youth-led initiatives employing modern high-speed internet has great potential in urban Tanzania where most youth have access to internet through mobile phones. It is a fact that inadequate access to information and networking opportunities has been a major hindrance to youth empowerment in Tanzania.

For TDFY, youth should have a one-stop virtual space to express their ideas, engage each other, network and collaborate on important aspects that impact on their well-being. Strong partnerships are required to ensure long-term success of youth development initiatives.



ICT Group computer awareness Bunge primary school in Dar es Salaam. © TDFY



ICT group computer awareness in Dar es Salaam. © TDFY

TDFY has plans to have the Forum act as a major employment portal for Tanzanian youth. The Forum's daily functioning currently depends on the support of youth volunteers and the plan is to recruit as many youth volunteers as possible to give them adequate technical training to ensure that the Forum is ran smoothly. Given adequate financial resources, the long-term plan for TDFY, is to permanently employ youth moderators for the Forum. TDFY is seeking committed partners to assist in marketing the Forum and offering technical support and ICT training to youth beneficiaries. The overall goal would be to add value to young people's ideas and ensure that the Forum provides productive services to urban and rural youth.



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CASE STUDY 9: YOUTH PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT SIERRA LEONE

Empowering Youth in Post-Conflict Sierra Leone

Youth in post-war Sierra Leone, especially those living in remote areas such as the Makeni region face serious unemployment challenges. Most Sierra Leone youth have received little to no education. For those youth with some education, mostly primary level, it is extremely hard to secure meaningful employment in urban areas. The youth unemployment challenge is compounded by the fact that mainstream vocational training centers are very expensive for the uneducated poor youth.

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“Mainstream vocational training centers are very expensive for the uneducated poor youth. They charge about \$US200 for a 6-month training course and simply give youth completion certificates after that and nothing else.”

Musa Ansumana Soko

(Executive Coordinator Youth Partnership for Peace and Development)

”

After the training at mainstream Vocational Training Centers, youth are awarded completion certificates and nothing else. In response to worsening youth unemployment in the Makeni region, the Youth Partnership for Peace and Development (YPPD) launched a year-long Sustainable Youth

Livelihoods through Vocational Skills Training (SYLVST) project, financed by the UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund. SYLVST offered vocational skills training to youth at no charge. In addition to the skills training, youth graduates from the SYLVST are also given certificates of completion, letters of recommendation, and full start-up training toolkits.

Access to working space for youth remains a problem. YPPD tries to improve access to operating spaces for the youth by inviting community members to graduation ceremonies, in hopes that the community members will suggest places where youth could start their projects. Most youth graduates operate from their homes, where they carry out employment activities including dress making, tailoring, textile design, and small businesses.

Reaching out to young women and to informal workers

More young women than young men generally enroll in the training programs offered by YPPD—the ratio is roughly 80% female and 20% male. For example, in the February 2011 SYLVST graduates, there were 32 young women and 8 young men. The fact that there are more young females than males undergoing training and graduating from YPPD programs is not by design but rather an indication of more young females being interested in the training programs as compared to young males.

SYLVS has sought to integrate youth informal workers in several ways. First, the project targeted youth lacking any meaningful formal education and employment—most of them working in the informal economy. According the Executive Coordinator of YPPD, the problem has been that YPPD has not been able to pay the trainees any stipend as an incentive for youth to complete the training. Those youth who work in the informal economy need their earnings to survive and take care of themselves and their families. As such, it's hard for such youth to undergo any long-term training with YPPD, where they will not be paid anything. This has made it hard for YPPD to recruit some of the poorest youth willing to receive the vocational skills training. Young girls who work as prostitutes in the streets, for example, can make \$10-\$20 a day but will not make any money when they join the YPPD training. An outreach program has since been launched aimed at recruiting girl prostitutes through educating them about the importance of the skills training and the risks associated with prostitution. Through the sustainable youth livelihoods project, YPPD seeks to use youth graduates as resources in their communities. Youth are taught to reach out to other youth in the community through volunteering and employing other less privileged youth in their businesses.



Demonstration by Trainer (Mrs. Sarian Westley).

© YPPD Sierra Leone



A cooperative model:

All of the 40 youth who graduated from the UN-Habitat funded sustainable livelihoods project are operating their own businesses, mostly in pairs or small groups. Youth pair up for businesses based on their places of residence. The idea of working in groups was first suggested by youth trainees in 2008 and has been embraced by graduates since then. By working in pairs or small groups, youth can pull resources together, share business skills and help each other in fixing broken machines.



The Sustainable Youth Livelihood through Vocational Skills Training Today

The SYLVS has been ongoing with funding from the Mano Menima Development Foundation. With more financial resources, YPPD plans to replicate the SYLVS in other remote places in Sierra Leone that have worse living and employment conditions than the Makeni Region. YPPD recently launched the “Empowering them for a Lifetime” Campaign as a means to scale up the SYLVS project with particular focus on vulnerable young women in post-conflict Sierra Leone.

Beneficiary Testimonials

Zainab Kargbo (Female, 21)

“NGOs come and go year after year but I sometimes wonder what they really do to address unemployment and societal problems. I am glad I am a part of the Sustainable Youth Livelihood Training Center of YPPD. I’ll remain grateful forever”.



Trainees listen to lectures at the YPPD Training Center.
© YPPD Sierra Leone

Fatmata Bangura (Female, 30)

“Being a young woman has brought nothing to me but abandonment from my family and friends, because they believed I could hardly do things on my own. Here am I today. I am now a certified graduate, and of course, with an opportunity of a lifetime I never imagined. My start-up kits will forever be with me as I continue adding more to it.”

Kadiatu Bangura (Female, 21)

“Had a project like this been available in Makeni, I would have gone far by now to emancipate myself from the burdens of unemployment and daily survival. I just feel like enrolling again year-after-year but I need to move on with my already-acquired skills that will help me and my only daughter. I am glad I now have a way of uplifting myself to the next level”.

Memunatu Conteh (Female, 27)

“Owning a business of my own has always been a dream but I kept asking myself how I would achieve that dream. Through YPPD and UN-Habitat, my dream became a reality as I now have an apprentice working with me in my small Tailoring Shop”.



Trainees testimonies on the Youth Partnership for Peace and Development training. © YPPD Sierra Leone



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Harja Speaks to young girls.
© PDI

CASE STUDY 10: **PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES** PAKISTAN

Reviving Hope for Young Women In Karachi Slums

By *KHALIDA BROHI & TIZAI MAU*

Participatory Development Initiatives [PDI] is a youth-led non-profit and non-governmental organization. Launched in 2004 by a group of young community development professionals, human rights activists, trade unionists, researchers, media professionals and concerned citizens, PDI engages in advocacy, community awareness, mass mobilization, participatory community development, participatory research, and networking on the local, national as well as global issues negatively affecting the lives and the livelihoods of the poor communities, especially that of women.

(www.pdi.org.pk).

PDI envisions a participatory development process with active involvement from all stakeholders from the conceptualization to planning and implementation phases, making the development process people-oriented, people-centered, and gender sensitive. Overall, PDI strives to promote participatory, pro-poor, sustainable, and gender-balanced development, creating equal opportunities and benefits for all.

The Fisherwomen Alternative Livelihood Project (FALP) was launched by Participatory Development Initiatives with funding from the UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund. The FALP empowered local fisherwomen economically and socially by improving their lifestyles and bringing them out of male domination in the form of family income ownership rights through giving women independent income generating opportunities through mobilization, training and savings and credit schemes.

For young women and youth in general, fishing as an alternative livelihood is inherited from their parents. PDI seeks to enhance young women's fishing activities through offering transportation services, training and advice to Young Fisherwomen Associations (YFAs) and marketing support for their fishing products. Around 300 young women have joined the YFAs.

“

The damage to coral reefs has caused a major decline in fishing as a viable livelihood option for young women in coastal areas.

”

Young women had to depend more on embroidery and poultry farming for their livelihoods. PDI set-up Sughar (skilled and confident woman) Centers inside the slums to train young women in traditional fashion design. Sewing and embroidering have proved more effective for young women with their restricted mobility. Over 100 young women have benefited from the sewing and embroidery initiative.

PDI aims to offer young women in slum communities training on value-addition of the traditional embroidery, while also providing means for alternative livelihood in poultry farming, embroidery and micro-credit. Rakhi was very successful with the programme and she became the envy and inspiration for others in her village as well as for PDI's team.

“

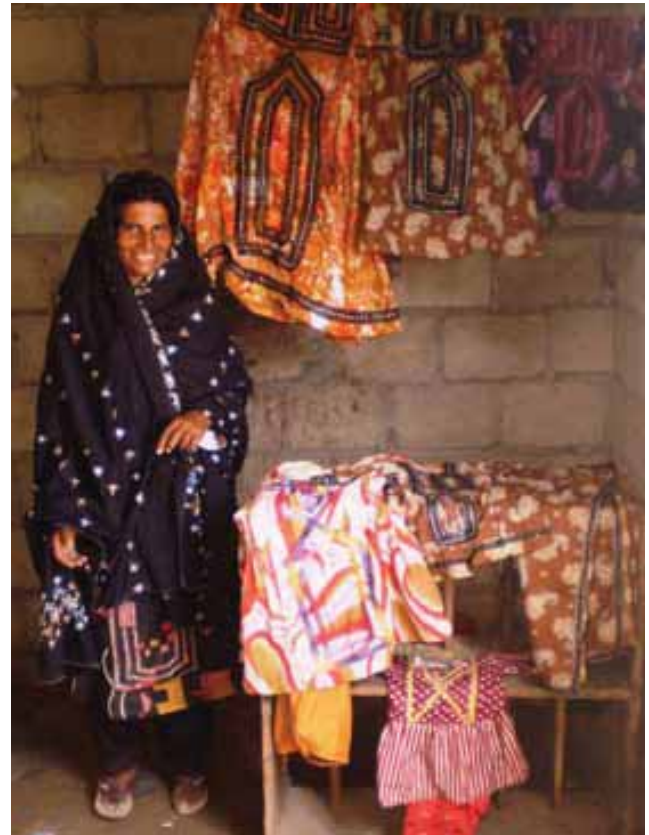
Sewing and embroidery is a more viable alternative livelihood for young women since it can be done from inside their homes or at nearby Sughar Centers.

”

Spotlight on Rakhi

In the penetrating heat of afternoons in Haji Noor Muhammad Goth slum, there are dirt flies almost everywhere and inside everything, not sparing the green leaves of *neem* trees which look like some papers trimmed to look like leaves attached to bare stems... until it rains and washes away dirt clearing the skies and earth bringing back a beautiful day in Haji Noor Muhammad Goth. This village has a population of fisher folk on the coast of Karachi.

Rakhi, the wife of Murad and mother of 5 young sons, becomes cheerful at this beauty of her small village where she lived all her life until she got married in her early 20's. Now she is 29, living in her small home with her husband and children, helping out in making fish nets and repairing their boats.



Rakhi working on traditional embroidery.

© PDI

With her husband's unstable income, it was hard to feed their five children. Now armed with dress making skills, Rakhi makes beautiful dresses with beads and mirrors for sale in Karachi city center. Her monthly home income has since risen from \$200 to \$800 within the second month. Rakhi was happy to find out that the traditional embroidery she sells in her village was also well received among the well-off families in Karachi, allowing her to generate higher income.

Hajra Joins Hands for Change

One can never tell that she is the one who runs around fetching water for her family from a far off water source, bringing wood to burn, looks after her children and does everything to keep the house in shape. During a whole day's work Hajra is as joyous as a child, always ready to correct what's wrong and make people happy.

“

"I know I am no longer a young girl," she says blushing, "...but I was a young girl once and have wanted to do so much in life but never got the opportunity to do it. That's what I want for the girls now, to provide them with what I could not have. I would do anything that can help make their lives better," she adds. The damage to coral reefs has caused a major decline in fishing as a viable livelihood option for young women in coastal areas.

”

32-year-old Hajra, is a mother of 4 children and resident of Haji Noor Muhammad village, a fisherfolk slum in the coastal belt at about 45 km from Karachi's main city center. When she heard about the Participatory Development Initiatives (PDI) team coming weekly to visit and meet the young girls of her Goth (Slum) to initiate opportunities for them to gain skills and education, she and others beamed with happiness.

During the continuous mobilization meetings prior the project, PDI's team ensured full participation of villagers and their joint support in establishing Women Embroidery and Literacy Centers. Hajra and other slum women were really excited at the news of Women Embroidery and Literacy Centers opening in her village. Harja would rush to each of the meetings held by PDI's team with the village fisherwomen, taking part in the discussions and planning. It wasn't long before she wholeheartedly announced her support for the Project by giving one of her rooms in her home as an Embroidery and Literacy Center working space.

“

"God knows how one thinks," she says, "I always thought of helping these girls gain skills for their income support, and now is the time I can really make my wish come true."

”

PDI's team was first surprised but pleased by her announcement and asked her if there were any deep reasons she felt the need to help PDI and the young girls. Her only reply came as.

“

"When was it we last heard that women income generating programmes are starting? If there is one now, it's going to bring a lot of change, and I want to be part of that change making."

”

The Embroidery and Literacy Center aims to bring self-empowerment to young women and girls, by giving them means of ownership by providing them with skills and access to small businesses. PDI's goal is to put the young girls of Karachi slums one step ahead in their communities and to be respected for who they are. With the support of people like Hajra, PDI is inspired to replicate similar Embroidery and Literacy Centers in other villages, knowing that real change is possible.

The Fisherwomen Alternative Livelihood Project in Future

PDI hasn't been able to replicate the whole FALP in other slum areas and villages in Pakistan due to limited financial resources. PDI now has plans to raise enough money to ensure replication of the FALP and related livelihood activities in several slums areas and villages around Karachi. PDI's plan is to visit potential project areas first to learn "heart to heart" the challenges being experienced in such communities to avoid the common mistake of imposing irrelevant development ideas onto the community. For now, the plan is for PDI to continue marketing and selling young women's fishing products, farming and poultry projects while also offering marketing skills to the young women. PDI will also continue to offer micro-credit training and savings and credit schemes to strengthen the structure of young women's sewing, embroidery and Sughar Centers to make them sustainable social enterprises.



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Young girls learning computer skills
at the Youth Resource Center.
© SCF

CASE STUDY 11: **SINDH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION** PAKISTAN

Youth Empowerment through Skills and Knowledge Acquisition in Hyderabad Slums

By Javed Hussain & Tizai Mauto

Sindh Community Foundation (SCF) is a youth-led organization working to mobilize youth for social development. Sindh Community Foundation was formed by young women and men committed to human rights and social workers of Hala and Hyderabad in January 2001. SCF aims to improve the socio-economic conditions of rural communities and neglected segments of society, particularly youth and women, by mobilizing internal and external physical, financial and human resources. SCF employs a comprehensive strategy ranging from action research, social mobilization, training and capacity building, building links with resource providers/government line agencies, collaboration with other CSOs and like-minded NGOs and advocacy on various issues. SCF works in cross-cultural issues ranging from women and girls empowerment, youth development, promoting and protecting human rights, environmental justice and climate change through social mobilization.

(www.scfngo.org).

To enhance its youth development agenda, SCF received a one-year grant from the UN Habitat Urban Youth Fund to launch the Youth Empowerment through Knowledge and Skills Project in the Hyderabad Slums

The project was implemented from January through December, 2010 and aimed to provide the Hyderabad Slum youth with access to information technology skills, opportunities for self-growth, opportunities to learn and understand social issues and a chance to enhance young people's involvement in voluntary actions at the local level.

As part of the project, SCF developed an ambitious integrated Youth Development Model including youth group formation, capacity building for leadership, skills development, career planning sessions, and fun non-curricular activities. The Youth Resource Center (YRC) is the nucleus of all project activities.

The YRC was first set-up in 2007 with an initial seed grant from the Population Council of Pakistan and was boosted by the Urban Youth Fund grant in 2009. Through the YRC, career planning and counseling services have been provided to 201 youth (101 girls and 100 boys). With the Urban Youth Fund grant, YRC activities and services were strengthened, for example, the YRC library facility has been upgraded to accommodate more young girls and boys from surrounding slum areas who do not have access to library facilities and services.

“

The Youth Resource Center brings together youth from diverse political, religious, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds. The ability to bring groups together peacefully exemplifies successful youth development progress in Pakistan.

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Access to urban land is generally difficult and expensive for young people and their representative organizations. Access to land is facilitated by voluntary youth networks, organized youth groups, and collaborative initiatives with local NGOs.

”

UTILIZATION OF THE YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER

Facility	# of boy beneficiaries	# of girl beneficiaries	Total youth beneficiaries
IT/Computer Education	45	55	100
English Coaching	32	42	74
Library Facilities	101	35	136
Career Planning and Counseling	100	101	201
Youth Leadership Training Program	17	13	30
Youth Forums	123	222	345
Newsletter/Youth Voice	300	700	1,000
Total Number of Beneficiaries	718	1168	1886

As a result of the Youth Empowerment through Skills and Knowledge project, SCF has formed a youth network on climate change and environment to engage youth in environmental activism and sensitize them to environmental issues and problems. The youth network has over 1,000 students and youth activists from Hyderabad and Jamshoro districts. Youth network members are planting trees and raising awareness at educational institutions across Hyderabad.

Sindh Community Foundation uses an integrated approach to ensure success in its projects. Critical contemporary issues such as youth employment, peace and tolerance, human rights and globalization in Pakistan are addressed through youth forums. The youth forums bring together youth from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds. Women and girl marginalization issues are addressed in collaboration with girls associations already dealing with such issues on the ground. SCF is also working in collaboration with the Pakistan Youth Ministry in the areas of voter education campaign, advocacy, resource mobilization and other important areas.



Young girl participating in the Importance of Information technology for girls seminar. © SCF

Looking to the Future

SCF has several plans for the future including stronger coordination with project donors and raising funds through submitting more project proposals to prospective donors, developing a strong institutional capacity for organization, increasing technical training for SCF staff and volunteers, establishing and strengthening 10 Youth Resource Centers, and expanding areas of operation by launching community programs for women and youth in 3 more districts of Sindh,



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For testimonials, please visit:
<http://www.scfngo.org/videos.htm>



CASE STUDY 12: **GREENOCOM** VIETNAM

Unleashing entrepreneurship potential through sustainability education in Hanoi

BY Luu Duc Hiep & Tizai Mauto

The Green Innovation and Communication Co.Ltd, GreennoCom, is a professional services firm offering communication, training and market research services, specializing in green business and sustainability solutions.

Its mission is to provide clear information, networking and learning opportunities to help companies and organizations in Vietnam integrate sustainable business practices into their daily operations.

GreennoCom constantly seeks innovative ways of doing business both within the organization and for its clients. Sustainability is at the heart of all of GreennoCom activities, both internal and external. GreennoCom respects and encourages the development and growth of its individual members. By fostering innovation, GreennoCom aims to become the leading company in Vietnam promoting sustainable business practices and providing sustainability solutions.

The Youth Entrepreneurs and Sustainability Education (YESE) Project

YESE was officially launched as a non-profit initiative of GreennoCom in March 2010 with funding and support from the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) Urban Youth Fund and the Center for Social Initiatives Promotion (CSIP).

YESE was created in response to the urgent need for sustainable development in a rapidly developing world, particularly in Vietnam. YESE believes that fostering the development of skills, knowledge and entrepreneurial spirit is one of the best ways to address these sustainability challenges in the long term. The project aims to provide a platform for youth in Vietnam to learn about sustainable development in the Vietnamese context, to enhance the opportunities of youth involvement in entrepreneurship education activities and create a platform for collaboration in solving sustainability issues in Vietnam using entrepreneurial skills.

By targeting high-achieving university students with leadership potential and an interest in sustainability, YESE's idea is to create the next generation of leaders who can drive sustainable change using entrepreneurship as a tool to build a better society. With their own initiatives for social impact, they will instigate change in corporate organizations.

“

Young Vietnamese females are more interested in joining the YESE Program than young Vietnamese males. During 2010 and 2011, 60 youth benefited from the YESE Project, 75% of whom were girls.

”

“

“The biggest challenge is that the will isn’t there. People don’t understand sustainability issues and challenges. Youth mobilization is important to raise awareness among youth.”

Luu Duc Hiep
GreennoCom, Founder & CEO

”

YESE 's Approach

What is YESE about?

YESE project is a three-month programme made up of 3 distinct components, as shown below:



- The training consists of a series of participatory workshops, which introduce participants to sustainable development and social entrepreneurship while also equipping them with business and leadership skills. Participants get to visit local social enterprises and socially-responsible businesses to learn about how to start a business and how to have an impact.
- The field trip is a 2-3 day visit to a rural community outside Hanoi where participants have a chance to put their skills and knowledge to practice. Through group activities, participants

explore local sustainable development issues and develop ideas for innovative and sustainable solutions to benefit the community.

- The YESE Gala is an event that brings together participants, speakers, local social enterprises, socially-responsible businesses, NGOs and interested community members. The gala is organized by the participants and provides an opportunity for them to showcase what they have learned and to share their business ideas. The gala is also a networking opportunity for all attendees.

The first three-month programme was delivered in 2010 and another in 2011. More recently, YESE developed a shorter, intensive one-week programme based on the success and lessons from the 2010 and 2011 cycles. Consistent with the three-month programme, the one-week programme is interactive, fun and uses a diverse range of activities, tools and learning methods.

The one-week programme targets 40 top students from universities across Hanoi. Participants engage in an intensive learning process, which encourages them to find out more about sustainability issues society is facing and to develop skills and experience to think of innovative ways to address these problems.



The Youth Entrepreneurs and Sustainability Education (YESE) Gala. © GREENOCOM



The Youth Entrepreneurs and Sustainability Education (YESE) workshop. © GREENOCOM

YESE equips participants with skills and a mindset that are useful for their personal development and future career. The project provides an opportunity for the participants to meet and work with various real world social entrepreneurs and experts in sustainability-related fields. Consequently, YESE helps participants in building strong and long-lasting networks with each other, as well as with the YESE Alumni Network.

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“Its not just about lots of money but also about giving time to your project and to use available resources.”

Luu Duc Hiep
GreennoCom Founder & CEO

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Unlike traditional Vietnamese education, the YESE Program uses a participatory approach to encourage youth participants to express their own views and to draw their own conclusions.

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The Youth Entrepreneurs and Sustainability Education (YESE) Field trip. © GREENOCOM



The Youth Entrepreneurs and Sustainability Education (YESE) Training. © GREENOCOM

YESE PROJECT TODAY

The YESE project is ongoing and it is currently seeking strategic partners in promoting a social entrepreneurship movement and building a sustainable Vietnam. The YESE team believes that collaboration gives an opportunity for partner organizations to demonstrate their social responsibility, to enhance their public image and to contribute to social and sustainable development and innovation in Vietnam.

Contributions from potential partners will be used to support the delivery of current and future young entrepreneurs training programmes. The contributions will also help expand educational programmes by enhancing the development and distribution of education materials and increasing resources to nurture and support social and environmental business ideas and projects of Vietnamese youth. In-kind sponsors are an important part of the YESE programme as they help keep the costs of the programme low, allowing YESE to continuously train and support young social entrepreneurs. YESE plans to replicate the project in other parts of Vietnam, including Saigon, and to continuously monitor and evaluate its activities.



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CASE STUDY 13: **AWARE GIRLS** PAKISTAN

Empowering young women in male-dominated Pakistan

Aware Girls is a young women-led organization working for women empowerment, gender equality, and peace in Pakistan. It is working to strengthen the leadership capacity of young women, enabling them to act as agents of social change in their communities.

Aware Girls trains women and builds their capacity in a way that enables them to challenge the norms of society to have their own individual human right, and capacitating them to run small-scale, sustainable businesses. Over the years, Aware Girls has provided mentorship to many young women, facilitating their access to financial resources and markets. Aware Girls continues to provide young women with a platform for capacity building, networking, and advocacy, enabling them to act as agents of women's empowerment.

Young women are in a very difficult position in Pakistan because of several cultural constraints. Pakistani women have limited opportunities for education, capacity building, and entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship is limited mostly to men. The role of women, both young and old, is mostly confined to being a house-wife or helper of her husband, and they are not considered as

individuals with a right to live independently. Women's mobility is also very much restricted, and in many parts of Pakistan, women's mobility and decision-making are heavily dependent on men.

As such, Pakistani women struggle to become entrepreneurs. To become successful entrepreneurs, women have, first, to challenge the oppressing gender norms and culture of the Pakistani society, but they also have to face other challenges in capacity building, resource mobilization and linkages to the market.

Even the young women trained by Aware Girls still find it hard to secure working space in open city markets. Worse still, Pakistani women cannot be dealers in shops because it is a very male-dominated structure, but also because they are supposed to stay in closed spaces like homes (and very few times in offices). According to the Aware Girls Chairperson, Pakistan is unique regarding market operators because one will only see men in the shops (as dealers or owners).

“

“If you ever come to Peshawar, and you will go to a market, the market gives the sense that business is only for men”.

Gulalai Ismail

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Young girls attending an HIV/AIDS training session.
© Aware Girls

No support for young women from State and local Municipality

Young Women's businesses are mostly home-based, and they are not supported in any way by the State or local municipality. Young women have to arrange for their own working spaces owing to cultural reasons and also because working spaces at open markets are very expensive. Few young women have managed to establish links with male dealers to have their products displayed and sold at boutiques and dealer shops. In Pakistan, there is virtually no system of registering one's own business with a Municipality or any other place when it's a small scale business.

Some young female entrepreneurs are working in groups, and others are working individually at home. When they work in groups, one woman from the group usually provides the entrepreneurial space.

The story of Gulalai Ismail

GULALAI ISMAIL is a 24-year-old young woman, currently doing an MPhil in Biotechnology at the Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad-Pakistan. She is the founding member of Aware Girls. Gulalai is also the Co-Chairperson of the Youth Advocacy Network on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in Pakistan. From the platform of this network, she has been promoting sexual and reproductive health rights of young people, and advocating for policy changes at both community and national level. Activism for women empowerment and gender equality are Gulalai's central passions. She wants to become an entrepreneur to bring social change leading to young women's empowerment and to the strengthening of the women's rights movement.

Increasing religious militancy and increased involvement of young people in the Taliban movement motivated Gulalai to work for peace promotion among young people in society. Worried by the growing involvement of young people in the Taliban, she started the Peace Education for Peer Educators who are playing an active role in educating young people on issues of peace, tolerance, and pluralism.

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“...one simple thing which is important is clarity in goals, and clarity in understanding of the issue is very important. Sometimes we, being youth led organizations, are very much enthusiastic and want to do everything but it's important to be specific to achieve our goals effectively”.

Gulalai Ismail

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“If I describe my dream in one word I will say “Gender Equality.” I have a dream of the world where women are empowered, women are respected as equal citizens, women have equal access to health, education, employment, justice, and other social services; a world where women have the right to decide about their own bodies and sexualities; a world where women have the right to live a life of their own choice”

Gulalai Ismail

”

With support from UN-Habitat’s Urban Youth Fund, Aware Girls launched the Micro-Entrepreneurship Project for Young Women and trained 30 young female entrepreneurs. Of them, 22 have already secured business loans from local banks such as Bank of Khyber and the First Women Bank. The female entrepreneurs secured loans averaging US \$300 each. Aware Girls has partnered with a local organization called RISE, which runs a skill building school and provides mentorship to the young women trained by Aware Girls. RISE further provides training to Aware Girls graduates if needed, and links the young women to the market.

The young women who were trained in partnership with the RISE Skills Building School, after the UN-Habitat sponsored programme, have seen their incomes almost double after the training. This has inspired other young women to become economically independent by developing their own livelihoods.

Now, other young women are approaching Aware Girls to join the Micro-Entrepreneurship Project. In response, Aware Girls has strengthened its partnership with the RISE Skills Building School to train more young women. Trained women are more independent and more mobile, thus better able to challenge the prevailing cultural constraints and gender norms.

The Road Ahead...

Aware Girls has plans to work with women who were victims of recent floods. Funding has not been secured yet but some partnerships with local organizations are already in place for technical and in-kind support.

For the entrepreneurship programme to continue, Aware Girls will need about US \$25,000 to train 30 young females and US \$50,000 to train 60 young females. With this kind of funding, Aware Girls will be able to continue with the Micro Entrepreneurship Project for Young Women in the short-term.

“

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”



CONCLUDING REMARKS

This report presents findings from 13 Urban Youth Fund grantees from 13 different countries in Africa and the Asia Pacific region, 8 from Africa and 5 from the Asia Pacific. This report has been guided by three principal research questions:

1. To what extent are projects funded by the Urban Youth Fund generating sustainable employment?
2. What is the role of the Urban Youth Fund in strengthening partnership and capacity building for youth?
3. In general, how has the grant from the Urban Youth Fund impacted youth directly.

In regards to employment, it was found that the projects were successful in giving youth basic skills in a range for areas - from bead-making to hair dressing to eco-businesses. For the youth being trained, there was a great desire to be trained, with a general theme that the programme funded by the Urban Youth Fund assisted them in getting the skills to find some income generation, and in some cases finding a full-time job. Combined with the ability to generate income, was also the opportunity to network and work with those likeminded youth who were looking to get ahead.

Beyond direct job related skills, there was also an expressed desire to learn how to become entrepreneurs. Many of the projects focused on seeding youth small enterprises and businesses. The project

coordinators recognized this within the youth, with some calling for a stronger focus on entrepreneurship.

An important lesson-learned from these case studies is the group focus youth the Urban Youth Fund is targeting. Contrary to the often *individual focus* youth and public institutions in developed countries, and some multilateral organisations apply in their work, the lessons UN-Habitat gets from the Urban Youth Fund is that one have to have a *group focus* when talking about youth empowerment in developing countries.

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“4% of us are born entrepreneurs, the rest are made. Fund and train job creators and not job seekers.”

Agnès Amooti Namiyingo
(YAI-Uganda Program Coordinator)

”

The above quote from a participant of the Endurance Youth Association based in Ethiopia demonstrates the positive effect of the programme funded by the Urban Youth Fund beyond the direct benefits to the youth, but as well to their families and general community. By applying the principles of funding youth-led groups the Urban Youth Fund builds partnership and networks that are more sustainable than ad-hoc initiatives and projects.

“

“It’s a great opportunity to work as a group. We do have different experiences but collectively we make meaningful difference. After participating in the training, I developed confidence to step ahead, now I earn money from my job and am beginning to support my siblings. EYA and the Bistrat Cafe project changed my status.”

Zuriash Teni

”

The Urban Youth Fund is just funding registered youth-led groups, and the lessons-learned from this report echoes the findings in the second report of the Global Youth-Led Development Series. By going beyond the individual projects and initiatives to start funding youth-led groups, the Urban Youth Fund succeeds in building lasting partnerships between youth and between youth groups.

The groups funded by the Urban Youth Fund often have a very strong social as well as economic mandate, as was the case with the Team for Nature of Wildlife in Nepal. Again, the collective nature of the projects and the youth involved, focused not only on individual self-advancement, comes through strongly.

One of the core beliefs of the Urban Youth Fund is that one has to focus on the youth-led groups in order to make a change at the community level. This is why the Fund only gives grants to registered youth-led groups that have been active at least one year. Still, through the case studies in this report we clearly see how the projects delivered by the granted youth-led groups directly impacts individuals.

One example being the 22-year old Paxina Chimfwembe from Zambia, another being Tsige Hailese lasie from Ethiopia, yet other stories comes from the young women in the Karachi slums in Pakistan affected by the Participatory Development Initiatives’ project funded by the Urban Youth Fund.

The Urban Youth Fund impacts youth directly through the activities we fund but also through the difference these youth-led groups make in their community by changing the attitude towards young men and women. This is highly visible in the case of Aware Girls’ project in Pakistan. In Peshawar where they are delivering the project, business activities are not done by young girls. The activities funded by the Urban Youth Fund directly impacts the girls included in the project but also the thousands of other young women that lives in Peshawar. The ultimate goal of Aware Girls is very well formulated by Gulalai Ismail, one of the funding members of Aware Girls.

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“If I describe my dream in one word I will say “Gender Equality.” I have a dream of the world where women are empowered, women are respected as equal citizens, women have equal access to health, education, employment, justice, and other social services; a world where women have the right to decide about their own bodies and sexualities; a world where women have the right to live a life of their own choice”

Gulalai Ismail,
founding member of Aware Girls.

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EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS FROM THE URBAN YOUTH FUND GRANTEES IN AFRICA AND ASIA

Experiences and Lessons from the Urban Youth Fund report is the third report in the Global Youth-Led Development series. Informed by in-depth case studies of 13 youth fund funded projects, it analyzes experiences and lessons-learned from these projects. In contrast to the first two reports, it is having a more in-depth focus on a few selected projects. The reader is encouraged to read the two first reports to put these findings into a larger context of youth-led development. This case study report is part of a larger series of 30 Urban Youth Fund case studies to be completed by December 2012.

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