

# Youth

entrepreneurship  
& empowerment



UN-HABITAT

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

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## Foreword

At the Millennium Summit in September 2000, world leaders agreed on a set of eight objectives called the Millennium Development Goals. Goal 8, Target 16, stipulates that governments “develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth in developing countries”. UN-HABITAT believes that fostering entrepreneurship is a good way of meeting this target, as well as those related to sustainable development and employment. However, entrepreneurship is a useful way to promote self-employment among the young only if they get help with access to infrastructure, seed money, advice and other services that can be used set up micro enterprises.

Between now and 2010, 700 million young people aged 15-24 will enter the labour market in developing countries. According to the International Labour Organisation, more than 1 billion new jobs must be created to reduce unemployment. Without a concerted effort, a new generation will grow up feeling it has no stake in society. Conversely, we in the UN system passionately believe that by harnessing the potential of the young, the world can benefit enormously from a new wave of participation and intellectual creativity and help achieve the goals by the 2015 target date.

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka,  
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
Executive Director,  
UN-HABITAT



# Section 1

## UN-HABITAT philosophy

The year 2007 has gone down in history as the year, when for the first time half of humanity was living in towns and cities. In just a generation to come, this figure will rise to two-thirds of all human beings as the world witnesses the fastest rate of urbanisation yet recorded. Coincidentally, 2007 was also the year in which the global number of slum dwellers reached 1 billion. How will we cope with urban centres growing in size and growing in poverty? How will we cope with what has come to be called in United Nations parlance, the *urbanisation of poverty*? Sub-Sahara Africa has the world's fastest growing cities and slums. Its slum population today tops 200 million. It is a continent where over 70 percent of urban Africans live in slums. So how will Africa's youth develop as leaders when faced with the highest rates of unemployment and the highest levels of social exclusion?

The rationale for UN-HABITAT's intensified focus on youth is the fact that a high proportion of the developing world's population is young, and this segment of society is inordinately affected by the problems of unsustainable development. At the same time, the target group of UN-HABITAT's strategy, urban 15-24 year-olds in develop-

ing countries, possess immense potential to contribute to social development if afforded the right opportunities. These young people are the promise of the future, and failure to invest in the young generation will impose great constraints on the potential for future development, and pose great dangers.

UN-HABITAT recognizes that youth employment is vital for better living standards and a sense of self worth. Sustained unemployment can make the young vulnerable to social exclusion and turn to crime. Those who enter the workforce with limited job prospects, underdeveloped skills and inadequate education are most at risk for long-term unemployment, intermittent spells of unemployment, and low-wage employment throughout their working lives.



Young participants at the YED. Photo © UN-HABITAT

# Section 2

## UN-HABITAT strategies

Young people require the best information resources they can get when it comes to employment, health, crime prevention, governance, gender equality, empowerment, rights and responsibilities. UN-HABITAT's Global Partnership Initiative for Urban Youth Development is one of these resources. It regards young people as a major force for a better world. Thus, their empowerment through effective and meaningful participation in decision-making is crucial. The Global Partnership Initiative is based on innovative partnerships from neighbourhood level all the way through to the private sector, schools and universities, the national and international levels.

In partnership with cities and their young residents across East Africa, UN-HABITAT is trying out a programme to help young people, especially those living in poverty, to get the information and skills they need for the job market. And it is with this in mind that *One Stop Youth Centres* have been set up in four cities complete with computers provided by organizations such as Computer Aid. These centres bring the world of the cyber café to those least able to afford it, and offer training. Plans are being made to set up more such centres.

The Global Partnerships Initiative has been launched in Nairobi, Kampala, Kigali and Dar es Salaam. In February, 2007, a regional planning meeting in Kampala, Uganda, produced various recommendations for the future of the programme and identified the main principles of youth led development.

### Five Principles of Youth Led Development Developed by GPI Partner Cities

- Youth should define their own development goals and objectives.
- Youth should be given a social and physical space to participate in development and to be regularly consulted.
- Adult mentorship and peer-to-peer mentorship should be encouraged.
- Youth should be role models in order to help other youth to engage in development.
- Youth should be integrated into all local and national development programmes and frameworks.

# Section 3

## What is youth entrepreneurship?

Youth entrepreneurship is a source of job creation, empowerment and economic dynamism in a rapidly globalizing world<sup>1</sup>. Effective youth entrepreneurship education prepares young people to be responsible, enterprising individuals who become entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial thinkers and contribute to economic development and sustainable communities. UN-HABITAT's Young Entrepreneurs Day in Nairobi, April 2007, welcomed young entrepreneurs and a broad range of partners to deliberate on a concept of entrepreneurship that stimulates both personal initiative, as well as initiatives in a broad variety of organizations including the private sector and beyond.

Following is a summary of stories of many of the young entrepreneurs who participated in the event.

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<sup>1</sup>Criteria for youth entrepreneurship education, Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education <http://www.entre-ed.org/entre/criteria.htm>



Participants at the YED © UN-HABITAT



## **Knowing what government schemes are available to you and how to access them.**

Emilie Shuuya - Namibia - "Planting, Poultry and Weaving"

*“ Although born in a poor family, I always had big dreams. ”*

Emilie Shuuya, 23, grew up in the Omu-sati Region of northern Namibia and knew from an early age that her family would not be able to afford to send her to college. Motivated by her dream of being self-sufficient and educating herself, she decided to start up a business from home, from hair braiding to weaving to selling marula nuts. The Namibia Youth Credit Scheme soon offered Emilie a place in a business-training programme where she learned management, market research, stocktaking skills, and how to prepare budgets and business plans. The programme also provided her with a 70USD loan, with which she invested in her business and was able to pay back within six months. Since last year, Emilie's business has expanded along with her objectives; she is now interested in creating employment and income, and promoting Namibian art in the name of alleviating poverty. To date, Emilie has been able to supply crafts for local and national markets, has created two jobs for other youth, and has contributed to her own family's income. In some lasting and important words, Emilie is confident in exclaiming, "I make sure to pay myself a salary every month!"

## **Reaching out to your community for help - from soft loans to experienced advice.**

Chifundo Mikaya - Malawi - "Awoneji Samosas"

With approximately 70% of the Malawian population below the age of 30, it is not surprising that the absence of economic growth and job creation strategies for youth poses a major challenge to the development of the country, let alone its youth. Chifundo's own experience motivated her to appeal to the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative - through the Malawi Rural Finance Company - to start her samosa business. She was granted a 107USD loan and through a series of training sessions, was able to learn credit management skills, basic rules of economics, and the intricacies of group dynamics in business. Two years into her business, 23 year-old Chifundo is able to pay for school fees for both herself and her siblings, and has opened up a bank account. Some of her strategies were to offer promotional prices, charge interest to late debt payers, collaborate in joint ventures, and minimize drawings from her business funds before knowing her profit levels. In her advice to others, Chifundo says, "When there is something important happening, we always try to get feedback from our community; the elders come and visit us and discuss our problems with us."

Adelina Ampilla - Tanzania - "Kiroyera Tours"

“ *When starting a new business a strong effort needs to be made in marketing, linking and networking with various local stakeholders and community members. This way, the community will be more likely to eventually accept the new service.* ”

The high poverty rate of Kagera region in Tanzania prompted Adelina to consider tourism as a way to alleviate some of the problems her community was facing. She carried out research within her community and approached local leaders, appealing for their support. She also networked with service providers such as hoteliers, bankers, transporters and other existing tour operators. Challenges faced from the outset, however were; low levels of literacy within the community, little knowledge about tourist source markets, and poorly developed infrastructure in the Kagera region as a whole. Adelina and her partners attempted to solve the problems through public tourism awareness campaigns and vigorous marketing strategies at national and international tourism fairs. The results have been outstanding. Tourism rates have increased every year, and the programme remains in the hands of local people for their own profit. Adelina believes that, “The local community is a very important asset in developing tourism. One has to keep close links and continually listen to their ideas.”

Albert Nashon Odhoji - Kenya - "Slumcode"

“ *You have to try to link community, government and support agencies to further your goals, and you've got to strive to see a long-term employment vision instead of getting distracted by insubstantial, short-term returns.* ”

Having grown up in heart of Starehe slum in the outskirts of Nairobi, Albert and his peers saw how economic hardships caused most youth to rally behind initiatives that delivered quick returns, and to avoid potentially risky long-term projects. Albert, however, wanted to use his personal potential through positive means, for the benefit of his community. This empowerment, explains Albert, “Leads to youthful participation in effective leadership, governance and decision-making.” Today, Slumcode supports and supplements government initiatives through resource mobilization and facilitation of community development agendas. Resources have been collected directly from Slumcode members themselves, as the group has never relied on donor agencies. Even with fleeting amounts which come and go, however, the group has been able to support income-generating initiatives carried out by garbage collection groups, environmental conservation campaigners, HIV/AIDS support groups and performing and visual artists. As Albert explains, “We never wanted to start an organization based on the availability of funds, but instead, build a personal profile which can later be used to solicit funding. This ensures an organization

is made up of a strong and dedicated start-up team.”

Ogola Oluoch Japheth - Kenya - “People United for a New Korogocho”

“*Rich is he who has a dream, even without coins in his pocket.*”

Japheth is proud to exclaim that his project, “People United for a New Korogocho”, is a winner of the **Milgap Award**, a UN-HABITAT award programme for local projects that have contributed to leadership within communities. He emphasizes, however, that all the youth are partners in the process of winning.

“In the past,” says Japheth, “Korogocho slum was known as a place of criminals, and at the bad end of a lot of media stories. Now it is full of good stories.” This change is in due thanks to a lot of hard work by Japheth and his fellow youth, as well as the dedicated sponsorship of St. John’s Catholic Church. Japheth explains that the project believes in a reintegration strategy, which targets those young people who are looking to get back to the ordinary market economy. The project is housed in Korogocho itself, run by volunteers, made up of both youth from the community and members of St. John’s church. No one is making a salary yet, but as increased efforts are put into the different income generation programmes, there is a likely potential for youth to profit.

“People United for a New Korogocho” is lead by a Baraza, a body consisting of elected representatives from 26 smaller

communities spread across the Korogocho territory. Out of this group, an executive body of 10 people holds the office for 3 years. There are also working groups called the Huduma, comprised of another set of representative members, who render specific charitable services to the whole community. At the moment, “People United for a New Korogocho” has 20 projects targeting street children, women, and schools in the slum. To name a few: the Boma Rescue Centre is a day centre for the recovery and re-education of street children who work in the rubbish dump; the Korogocho Street Children Programme is a street work and community centre for 40 children who sniff glue; St. John’s Sports Society uses ten different games to help young talents to emerge and to prevent crime, drugs and alcohol abuse; Bega Kwa Bega is a women’s cooperative that produces wonderful ethnic artisanship; and finally, Mukuru Recycling Centre is a co-operative that sees 40 young people recycling materials from the rubbish dump daily. “We believe that the future of our community is in the hands of women and youths. Therefore they are the main focus of our projects.” Japheth further explains that the Sustainability of their programme lays in the fact that the ideas for projects come from the community itself, thereby instilling a sense of ownership amongst the residents, ensuring the long-term success of the projects, and their ability to be replicated. “People United for a New Korogocho” are founders and promoters of a network of slum communities where ideas and challenges are shared to help others with similar projects in their own environments.

## **Approaching financial institutions for a start-up loan, using targeted marketing devices and building a solid working team.**

Ndanga Levy Michel Shirishize - Burundi  
- "InfoMarket"

“ *My experience in business is that it is not an easy thing. You have to be careful and work hard or otherwise you can lose everything.* ”

While working at a brewery in internet technology support, Shirishize looked for a way he could use his skills to employ himself, as well as help other young people develop their own computer skills. With a loan from the Banque de Gestion et de Financement, he was able to start a cyber café within his community in 2004. Profiting from this venture alone, however, was not enough for Shirishize - he wanted to contribute to the much-needed capacity building of his fellow Burundian peers. Thus, Shirishize committed himself to his vision, and now three years on, he owns two cyber cafes with 13 computers each, as well as one training room where he instructs fellow youth in internet technology. Shirishize believes he has such a strong customer base because of his low fees, regular radio advertisements, and his pure hard work -often putting in more than 12 hours a day. “My workplace environment is encouraging and upbeat. Every Monday we have a meeting with all the employees to assess how the work went the last week.”

## **Spotting a niche market for a product where there is an absence of a locally made alternative.**

Juliet Nakibuule - Uganda - "MakaPads"

Just a few years ago, little did Juliet know that she would play a large role in the production and distribution of the first African-made sanitary pad. Indeed, upon graduating from university, Juliet had joined the ranks of many youth who could not find a job. After applying for training with the innovator of the \*MakaPads technology Dr. Musazzi Moses, however, Juliet was intrigued so much that she offered to train other girls on how to seal the pads, soon realizing that there existed a large business potential in their production. As she explains, “All processes are decentralized so that processing the papyrus and waste paper, making the absorbent, softening and sizing the paper, sterilizing, and packing the pads all allow for different people to be gainfully employed.” Juliet now supplies pads to NGOs, as well as United Nations High Commission for Refugees, and the Government of Uganda has also recently ordered thirty thousand pads, to be distributed in school across the country. Juliet is now 26 years old and has 17 employees working for her; the first three who were previously unemployed, are now making 600USD a month. Meanwhile, the actual papyrus plants stay intact, the community is engaged in production without the use of any chemicals, the pads are available at 27US cents for a packet of ten, and the girl-child stays in school no matter what the time of month.

*\*MakaPads was shortlisted for the BBC's World Challenge Awards - 2007*



**Finding a way to inspire and empower others in a way you have been motivated yourself. Become a mentor who promotes other youth entrepreneurs!**

OlafyinfoLuwa Oluwatosin Taiwo - Nigeria  
-“Echoes”

*“ I have had the rare privilege of translating my vision into reality. ”*

As a student at the University of Ibadan, Taiwo saw how the institution was becoming infamous for the growing increase of prostitution, as well as the levels of discrimination and molestation against female students. After she discovered there was not a single female-focused organization in the university, nor a forum for exchanging information, Taiwo was motivated in

September 2000, to find likeminded people, mobilize resources, and establish the NGO, “Echoes”. The objective of “Echoes” is to train and empower female students so that they build their self-confidence and are enabled to take active leadership roles in the development of their communities. “Echoes” also trains female students to acquire vocational skills like hairdressing, dressmaking, bead production, shoe and bag production from local hides and skin, interior decoration, pottery, and portrait production. Female students are also taught business and management strategies, communication skills and information technology. “Echoes” has contributed immensely to youth employment as female students are now gainfully employed, and there has been a sharp decline in female prostitution rates around campus.

**Researching what youth can directly produce for their communities, using a peer-to-peer skill that ensures transferability.**

Reuben Mtitu - Tanzania - "Kisangani Smith Group"

Ten years ago, Reuben conducted research into possible simple agricultural tools which could be used by smallholder farmers in Tanzania. The product of this investigation is the now widely known and hugely successful "Kisangani Smith Group". Reuben, 29, explains that his group started simply as a vendor, and activities were being done in an open space because they could not meet the cost of owning a workshop. When they achieved financial sustainability and formal registration in 2000, they were finally able to buy a plot of land where their workshop is now based. Reuben and his partners have

since trained 120 youth at the 'Blacksmith Training Center' in technologies that will enable the youth to establish their own blacksmith ventures in their respective communities. "Youth from the street can use the technologies they've learned to sustain themselves, thus reducing the rate of crime that would otherwise be brought about by these idle people in our society." As a young entrepreneur, Reuben has noted that if one wants to succeed in business, he or she has to observe certain factors such as undertaking persistent market research, producing quality products at all times, and advertising the business through the media. Reuben feels the fruits of his efforts has have been realized as he now collects a fixed salary of 95USD every month, and at the same time, sees his peers opening their own businesses in their rural homes.



## **Localizing action - initiating and lobbying for support of a regional youth programming network based on others existing internationally.**

Patrick Dueme Safi - Democratic Republic of Congo - "AEO for Youth & - Green TV"

"After the creation of UNEP's (United Nations Environment Programme's) - African Environment Outlook in Uganda in 2002," explains Patrick, "African experts realized they needed to associate with youth." This was the genesis for what is now "AEO for Youth", created under the auspice of the UNEP, and for the benefit of hundreds of enthusiastic youth like Patrick. Recognizing both a local gap and opportunity, Patrick was part of an initial team that helped in creating networks of this programme at the local levels in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Realizing it was, indeed, a job creation opportunity, over 2500 youth from all over the country signed up. It was precisely this overwhelming response that encouraged Patrick and his peers to come up with different environmental projects and initiatives for these youth. This prompted visits to several TV channels in the Democratic Republic of Congo in hopes of creating opportunities and experiences for youth interested in reporting on the environment. Green TV was born. Four years on, this environmental education reality programme regularly instills its young reporters with practical production and reporting skills and prepares them for the job market. Along the way, it has become the Democratic Republic of Congo's most popular youth programme on the air.

## **Identifying what your city or government is not providing for your neighbourhood, and approaching the authorities to find a way to fill the gap.**

Claire Tembo - Zambia - "Helen Kaunda Community Enterprise Garbage Collection"

*“ There were so many youth doing absolutely nothing in the neighbourhood. ”*

Just over a year ago, Claire realized that due to an obvious lack of capacity in the Lusaka City Council to collect garbage in the city, she was going to have to beautify her neighbourhood herself. Within a few months, she had established a Community Based Enterprise, which would eventually be incorporated in 2006, and initiated a partnership with the Lusaka City Council by way of a 1000USD loan. This money went primarily to the procurement of tools and renting a shop at the market. As for human resources, all Claire had to do was look at the idle youth around her community and she quickly had a committed and enthusiastic crew. Her team's objective was to provide an effective and efficient solid waste collection service for the residents of Helen Kaunda locality, and to collect revenue from every household being serviced. At present, the Helen Kaunda Community Garbage Collection team has managed to bring 420 clients on board and has created employment for about 8 youth, with a strong likelihood for growth. Claire explains that with the high levels of unemployment in Zambia, youths are ready to do anything to make ends meet.

Although only able to provide themselves with about 20USD a month, members of the Helen Kaunda Community Enterprise Garbage Collection team are now able to support their siblings and sponsor themselves in tertiary education.

Ogunbanke Aduragbemi - Nigeria - "Les Mediques Francais"

*"We await the dawn of the day when Les Mediques Francais will be a world renowned non-profit organization that has effectively used language to heal the sick."*

Prior to his initiation of the Les Mediques Francais project, Ogunbanke realized that few students had an international outlook on health delivery. Indeed, most had very little exposure to foreign cultures, and were poorly prepared to function in a linguistically diverse setting. In order to get around this, Ogunbanke realized the need for expanding the geographical functionality of future doctors and making it possible for doctors to reach out to communities beyond their own locality. Ogunbanke, in essence, embarked on an initiative of breaking language barriers in the name of health. Les Mediques Francais has now been able to spread their vision and have trained 12 value-added bilingual doctors, established several French language schools in various colleges of medicine, expanded the health-reach of medical practitioners, and organized voluntary community oriented initiatives to promote preventive health care practices. Financial resources come from dues regularly paid each month by Les Mediques Francais members, as well as grants from



Photo © Les Mediques Francais

private and commercial patrons. Ogunbanke explains that Les Mediques Francais has opened a bank account to ensure proper monitoring of fund transfers, and has engaged in aggressive marketing/campaigning attempts in the media and on the internet. Ogunbanke believes perseverance, innovation and a division of labour will keep Les Mediques Francais moving forward in leaps and bounds. "A benchmark of our success is all the lives that have been touched by our project."



**Discovering ways to increase the power of your degree and your entrepreneurial spirit through a school-to-work strategy, allowing for practical work experience before you graduate!**

Jean-Blaise Adjeklakara Mossus - Senegal - "Veterinary School of Dakar: Junior Undertaken"

Jean-Blaise's colleagues and friends at the Dakar Veterinary School decided to form a company of young veterinary surgeons, creating a framework for practical work experience that would allow recent graduates to more easily enter into the professional world. "It is difficult," explains Jean-Blaise, "to succeed in Africa where nothing is done to help young graduates". Therefore, under his own initiative, Jean-Blaise accumulated as much experience as he could in health and livestock production, the designing and installation of livestock buildings, and the setting up of quality control levels in the food industry. He established Junior Undertaken to reinforce the capacities and competences of his peers in these fields and to encourage the spread of entrepreneurial spirit. From their school, the group received a start-up budget of about 9400USD, used for the installation and launch of the project's structure. In terms of its operations, sources of finances are through services rendered, bank loans, and gifts. Since 2000, his team has carried out research in the field of health and livestock production in over 14 countries in Africa. Jean-Blaise believes it becomes necessary to have a creative spirit and entrepreneurial instinct in order to solve the problems of unemployment amongst Africa's youth.

Abenet Abite and Milkias Bonke - "Ethiopia Kindergarten Project" and "Tebeb Traditional Cloth Producers and Distributors"

*“ Even as a student, you can come to a better understanding of the current market and the challenges faced by fellow stakeholders, thereby increasing the likelihood of your own success in the field. ”*

Abenet and Milkias explain that the education level in Meketeya, Ethiopia, is suffering due to the lack of qualified education centres. Thus, they decided they wanted to contribute to providing education and improving their society's capacity. They asked themselves questions like, "Why are young children not attending school?", and in search of answers, collected information about the current situation through face-to-face interviews with members of their community. They realized that by opening a good kindergarten with fair fees, the community would benefit. Moreover, even though they were students themselves, they saw how they could change both their lives and the lives of those around them. Abenet and Milkias also established the "Tebeb Traditional Cloth Producers and Distributors" company, with the objectives of advertising and promoting their products, to open a series of good standardized shops, and to sell online through the internet. By the time they graduate, they emphasize, they will have had solid work experience with which to use as professionals entering the workforce.

# Section 4

## UN-HABITAT

### Targeted measures in youth employment and urban renewal

Policy instruments that are available at the macro level to fight economic downturns and avoid higher unemployment (e.g. monetary, fiscal, trade and exchange rate policies), are not normally in the purview of local governments, nor are they differentiated enough to address the problems of specific slums or municipal areas. This is not to say that macro-economic policy has no effect on urban renewal and youth employment, since general improvements in the economy and reductions in unemployment should result in some improvement in the livelihoods of the urban poor as well as young people.

The disproportionate disadvantages of urban youth, however, calls for more targeted measures. Opportunities for new or strengthened initiatives targeting urban youth specifically can be envisioned in the following areas<sup>2</sup>:

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<sup>2</sup>*Youth Employment and Urban Renewal, UN-HABITAT Discussion paper, draft 2, 14 October 2004.*

### Public Sector

One role is as a direct employer, by hiring youth in public administration or for public works projects. A growing area of concern is that the construction and maintenance of infrastructure in some countries has been taken over by multinational public works enterprises which use more capital intensive rather than labour-intensive methods. The public sector can also provide vital social services, which are instrumental in creating employment and fostering social integration and intergenerational solidarity. In developing countries, it is interesting to note that in many poor urban areas, civil society groups have been mobilized to provide social services in the absence of government provision, and there is a high level of youth participation in these volunteer activities.

### Globalization and World Market Expansion

Globalization and world market expansion provide space for labour intensive industrial growth, which can particularly benefit urban areas in general and unemployed youth in particular.

## Inter-Sectoral Partnerships

The public sector can engage the private sector in promoting youth employment through policies that grant private sector employers various incentives for hiring youth. These incentives can take the form of tax rebates, wage subsidies or loosening of employment regulations. There are also good opportunities for the public sector, especially local governments, to engage with civil society organizations on strategies to address urban youth unemployment. Expansion and strengthening of social services in the context of urban renewal initiatives should give high priority to establishing formal partnerships with civil society organizations, including local groups as well as national and international NGOs, with a conscious focus on employing young people.

## Informal Sector Expansion

Outside of agricultural activities, the bulk of informal sector employment is in urban or semi-urban settlements, characterized by low productivity, inadequate incomes and poor or even exploitative working conditions. This sector however, provides an easily exploitable opportunity for employment and sustained livelihoods, for skilled and unskilled labour alike. Strategies to promote the informal sector have tended to focus on improving access to credit, technical and business training, improved infrastructure, and marketing skills. Demand-sided issues need to be further examined, including linkages between the formal and informal economies, where the formal private sector can gain from fostering the growth of new business that supply their production needs.

## Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development

The 21st Governing Council of UN-HABITAT in April 2007, agreed to establish this fund by which to support youth-led initiatives in pursuance of the HABITAT agenda within the following areas:

- Mobilization of young people to help strengthen youth-related policy formulation;
- Building the capacities of governments at all levels, non-governmental and civil society organizations and private sector entities to ensure a better response to the needs and issues of young people;
- Supporting the development of interest-based information and communication-oriented networks;
- Piloting and demonstration of new and innovative approaches to employment, good governance, adequate shelter and secure tenure;
- Sharing and exchange of information on best practices;
- Facilitating vocational training and credit mechanisms to promote entrepreneurship and employment for young people, in collaboration with the private sector and in cooperation with other United Nations bodies and stakeholders;
- Promoting equal opportunities for both young men and women in all activities of urban youth development.

# Section 5

## Resources

### Supporting Youth Entrepreneurship

The following are both existing initiatives and long-term strategies which are promising an increased focus on youth employment and the institutionalization of youth entrepreneurship

Youth Business International, an initiative of International Business Leaders Forum ([www.youth-business.org](http://www.youth-business.org))

Youth Business International is an international network of programmes helping disadvantaged young people.

International Youth Foundation ([www.iyfn.org](http://www.iyfn.org))

The International Youth Foundation works in some 70 countries to improve the conditions and prospects for young people. Established in 1990, it works with hundreds of companies, foundations, and civil society organizations to give youth better prospects by promoting education, employability, leadership, and health education.

Empowering Africa Program ([www.a/ese.org](http://www.a/ese.org))

Empowering Africa Program is a continent-wide network initiative geared towards alle-

viating poverty and HIV/AIDS. One of the programmes, 'African Young Entrepreneurs', is intent on increasing the entrepreneurial capabilities of young people in Africa by providing them with knowledge and practical skills that would assist them in becoming self-reliant.

KIVA

([www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org)) KIVA lets the public connect with, and invest in outstanding entrepreneurs from impoverished communities worldwide. By choosing a business on *KIVA.org*, one can "sponsor a business" and help workers in developing nations make great strides towards economic independence. As the particular business starts profiting, the sponsor gets his or her loan repaid.

The Seed Initiative (Supporting Entrepreneurs in Environment and Development)

([www.seedinit.org](http://www.seedinit.org)) The Seed Initiative aims to inspire, support and build the capacity of locally driven entrepreneurial partnerships to contribute to the delivery of the Millennium Development Goals. The initiative focuses on 'business as unusual' - innovative action delivering real solutions through project cooperation among small and large businesses, local and international NGOs,

women's groups, labour organizations, public authorities and UN agencies, and others working in the field of sustainable development. The annual Seed Awards are an international competition to find the most promising new entrepreneurial or innovative, locally driven partnerships for sustainable development.

The Youth Employment Network  
([www.ilo.org/yen](http://www.ilo.org/yen))

The Secretary General's Youth Employment Network was established to act as a vehicle to address the global challenge of youth employment. As a joint initiative of the United Nations, World Bank and International Labour Organization, the Network views young people as partners in devising solutions to a common problem and seeks to support their aspirations rather than impose perceived 'needs' upon them. The four top priorities for all national action plans are: employability, equal opportunities between young men and women, entrepreneurship, and employment creation.

The International Labour Organization's Youth Employment Team  
([www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/yen/network/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/yen/network/index.htm))

The International Labour Organization's Youth Employment Team was established to strengthen its technical activities and policy messages on youth employment within the context of the International Labour Organization's Global Employment Agenda. The ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work provides a basic set of

principles that, when adhered to, will help provide decent work for young people.

The Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign  
([www.yesweb.org](http://www.yesweb.org))

The YES Campaign brings together diverse stakeholders, and works with them to develop the capacity of youth to lead employment initiatives, to promote youth employment to address key development challenges, and to build in-country coalitions to develop national strategies addressing youth unemployment. The YES Campaign and the UN Industrial Development Organization have also explored ways to promote youth employment and entrepreneurship through renewable energy technologies and value-added agro-business.

TakingITGlobal  
([www.takingitglobal.org](http://www.takingitglobal.org))

TakingITGlobal.org serves as the most popular online community for young people interested in connecting across cultures and making a difference. They work with global partners- from UN agencies, to major companies, and especially youth organizations - to build the capacity of youth for development, artistic and media expression, to make education more engaging, and to involve young people in global decision-making. TakingITGlobal houses a business and entrepreneurship initiative called YouthBiz, and regularly hosts global entrepreneurship conferences and workshops.

Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative  
([www.thecommonwealth.org](http://www.thecommonwealth.org))

The Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative helps young business people assess their credit needs, develop their entrepreneurial capabilities, and it provides loans.

Street Kids International

([www.streetkids.org](http://www.streetkids.org)) SKI conducts training in over 20 countries to help young people develop new skills. A new initiative called the Street Banking Toolkit, builds on lessons from Street Kids International's other business programmes, and provides youth with skills to save and manage loans.

A number of overall strategies for UN-HABITAT's work with youth were captured during Young Entrepreneurs' Day.

*From the youth themselves, the top suggestions were:*

Increased resources for youth entrepreneurs

Directly reaching out to youth

Facilitating youth tenders for suppliers

Involving youth in forum's and event's organization

Lobbying for youth in informal sector

Increased programming in games and sports

Promoting best practices

Setting up an autonomous body to manage the youth fund

Having more forums like the YED

Protecting markets and fighting dumping

Working on slum youth challenge awards

Facilitating dialogue with municipalities and functional centres

Creating dialogue between youth and investors

Securing neighbourhoods

Allowing for fair wages

Encouraging a market focus from governments

Enabling access to policy makers

Keeping adolescent girls in schools

## UN-HABITAT YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS' PRESENTERS LIST

1. Emilie Shuuya Namibia
2. Chifundo Mikaya Malawi
3. Ndanga Levy Michel Shirishize Burundi
4. Juliet Nakibuule Uganda
5. Olafyinfofuwa Oluwatosin Taiwo Nigeria
6. Reuben Mritu Tanzania
7. Patrick Dueme Saf Democratic Republic of Congo
8. Claire Tembo Zambia
9. Ogunbanke Aduragbemi Nigeria
10. Adelina Ampilla Tanzania
11. Abenet Abite and Milkias Bonke Ethiopia
12. Albert Nashon Odhoji Kenya
13. Jean-Blaise Adjeklakara Mossus Senegal
14. Ogola Oluoch Japheth Kenya
15. Bella Oden Gervais Marital Cameroon
16. Kwizera Aime Burundi
17. Golden Zikatiwindu Malawi
18. Christine Kyaruzi Tanzania
19. Irene Namuyanja Uganda
20. Liz Ogumbo Kenya





**UN-HABITAT**

**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME**

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