ILO YES JUMP COOP CHALLENGE FUND
Microfinance Challenge Fund for Youths
Call For Proposals

1. The Youth Employment Support (YES) Jobs for the Unemployed and Marginalized young People (JUMP) is part of the ILO’s response to the Kenya and Zimbabwe Decent Work Country Programmes adopted by the Social Partners Government, Workers and Employers in the two countries. The objective of the ILO YES-JUMP Project is to contribute to the poverty alleviation efforts in Kenya and Zimbabwe by facilitating the creation of decent and sustainable jobs for the youth of poor and marginalized communities. For this purpose, the project is assisting local communities in selected districts in rural and urban areas, in collaboration with government, workers’ and employers’ organizations, to create 1,000 decent jobs. The YES JUMP project aims to help partner communities and youth groups find more socially responsible and community driven solutions to poverty alleviation, with at least 50% of its target group being young women.

2. YES-JUMP COOP Challenge Fund is launching a competitive call for proposals, in partnership with COOPAfrica, to provide increased access to financial services for youths defined by the African Youth Charter as women and men between the ages of 15 and 35 years.

3. Organisations eligible for the Challenge Funds are Member-based institutions such as Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs), and other cooperative types of microfinance institutions OR Non member-based institutions such as commercial microfinance institutions and banks, which are legally registered in Kenya and Zimbabwe and provide micro credit services to young women and men in Nakuru, Nyandurua South and Athi River in Kenya and Norton, Gokwe South and Goromonzi Districts in Zimbabwe.

4. The organization applying for the grant or its target clients must comply with the cooperative principles, (voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; co-operation among co-operators; concern for community) and cooperative values (self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, solidarity and the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others).

5. Projects funded through the YES-JUMP COOP Challenge Fund should within 9 months offer loans to youths whose projects demonstrate a significant job creation impact for youths in the districts concerned. Below are only a few examples of projects that could be supported:

- Establishment of a credit line by a SACCO for young entrepreneurs and farmers’ members.
- Setting up a revolving fund by a cooperative union to provide micro-credit to its youth members.
- Establishment of a guarantee fund by a financial institution to facilitate access to loans for youth groups or cooperatives.
- Establishment of a marketing strategy by a SACCOs or other member-based Microfinance Institutions to attract new young members and increase access to credit.

6. The YES-JUMP COOP Challenge Fund will disburse grants ranging from USD 5,000 to USD 20,000 to selected successful applicants to enable them to improve access to credit for youths to start and improve their small enterprises and cooperatives.

7. The ILO and the YES JUMP District Pilot Project Implementation Committees invite applications for the YES-JUMP COOP Challenge Fund. Further Information and Application Forms can be downloaded from the following websites:


8. All hard copies of completed applications should be submitted to the District Pilot Project Implementation Committee Chair or District Administrator’s Offices and an electronic copy of the application should also be send e-mail to yesjumpkenya@ilo.org (Kenya) or yesjumpzw@ilo.org (Zimbabwe)

9. The deadline for submission is by close of business on 31st May 2010