

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT NETWORK newsletter

A joint initiative of UN, ILO and World Bank



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editorial

Dear Reader of the YEN Newsletter,

After the successful piloting of our Youth-to-Youth Fund in the Mano River Union in 2009, we are excited to announce the expansion of the Fund to East Africa. We are now accepting applications from youth lead organizations in 3 countries in East Africa, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and one country in West Africa, Guinea. The focus of the new call is on the promotion of self employment and business start ups, continuing on YEN's agenda to support young people's contribution to economic development. We are anxious to receive your innovative proposals but hurry, the deadline is fast approaching!

We are honored to present to you our new cooperation with the Jacobs Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in Switzerland working on youth development. In this newsletter, you will have the chance to get to know Dr. Bernd Ebersold, CEO of the Jacobs Foundation as he speaks about the work of the Foundation. In the next three years Jacobs will support YEN in conducting several impact evaluations of youth employment projects with the goal of broadening the evidence base on how to design effective interventions. We would like to thank Jacobs Foundation for this important investment in knowledge generation and commit to sharing the results of this work with you.

With best regards,

Markus Pilgrim

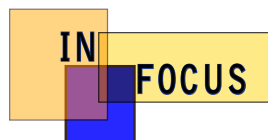
YEN Manager

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Youth-to-Youth Fund Launched in Three Countries

In July, YEN began accepting applications for grants in Guinea, Uganda and Tanzania under its Youth-to-Youth Fund. The Fund will also be launched in Kenya in August. The Fund enables youth-led organizations to implement small scale, innovative projects creating employment opportunities for their peers. Organizations will be able to apply for grants of between \$5,000 - \$20,000. Financial support will be combined with technical assistance to improve the institutional capacity of the grantee organizations.

Self employment of Guinean Youth

Amadou Diakite is a young man aged 32 in Conakry, Guinea. He is the President of the "Centre d'Assistance de Formation, d'Emploi et de Stages" (CAFES), a youth association that aims to fight poverty and preserve human rights through income generating activities. Most recently CAFES assisted in a campaign to organize Guinea's first ever peaceful, democratic elections.

While an active network of youth associations exists throughout Guinea, funding is often a key challenge for youth led organizations like CAFES. Consequently, many organizations struggle to achieve the level of impact they would desire. It is with such organizations in mind that YEN launched the Youth-to-Youth Fund. In Guinea, the Fund is sponsored by UNIDO, the UNDP's Peace Building Fund and the International Olympic Committee. Proposals will be selected in the following sectors: agriculture and food processing, services, energy and lighting, and sport. Amadou says that such a grant could take his association to the next level, not only significantly increasing their impact but also enabling them to obtain larger amount of funding from other sources in the future.

In the past youth led organizations in Guinea have shown that they are not lacking innovative ideas. In 2009 YEN carried out the pilot round of the

Youth-to-Youth Fund in Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone. One of the winners of this first round was Guinea-based SOS Miskines. With the funding they received they were able to buy a machine that can turn plastic trash into valuable plastic pellets. They then sell the pellets to their industrial clients who use them to make plastic products. The grant SOS Miskines received is helping them turn trash into cash and jobs for young people in Conakry.

The competition will be open till 14 August 2010. All registered youth led organizations based in Guinea can submit an expression of interest. The application form and further information can be found on our website at www.ilo.org/yen or by contacting Tendai Pasipanodya at pasipanodya@ilo.org

Youth Entrepreneurship in East Africa

The Youth-to-Youth Fund was recently launched for the first time in East Africa as part of the Africa Commission sponsored Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (YEF). Calls for proposals are

now open in Tanzania and Uganda and will be launched in Kenya in early August.

The Fund is unique in focusing solely on youth entrepreneurship development. The main goal of the Fund is to identify new ways of developing entrepreneurship among youth with the hope of these new solutions being replicated by others, creating even more entrepreneurship opportunities - and jobs - for young people.

The Youth-to-Youth Fund in Uganda tries to address the issues of the majority of the young women (between the ages of 14-30) being tied to unpaid family work and rural youth organizations having no access to many of the programs targeted to youth.

In Tanzania, where the registration rate of youth organizations is low and the entrepreneurship culture is not well established, the decision was made to open the call for proposals for all youth organizations and non-formal youth groups. During its first two years, the Fund aims to facilitate the

BMZ to contribute to Youth-to-Youth Fund in 2011

Based on the good results of the YEN competitive grant scheme for youth led organizations in the Mano River Union in 2009, the Federal German Ministry For Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) recently decided to make a contribution to the Fund in 2011. BMZ will contribute US\$230,000 to launch a new call for proposals targeting youth-led organizations in select countries in the MRU.

emergence of youth-led organizations and district-wide youth enterprise development networks and platforms.

In Kenya, part of the grants will be earmarked for the promotion of green jobs and green entrepreneurship opportunities for young women and men. This is hoped to fill in the gap of initiatives addressing the increasing negative impact of environmental degradation and climate change on the livelihoods of youth as well as the

positive development opportunities arising from these challenges.

Considering the often limited capacity and resources of the youth-led organizations, capacity building is given strong emphasis in the program in all the three countries. Based on their assessed needs, the grantees receive training and mentoring as well as business development services in

addition to the grant funding. Here, the comprehensiveness of the Youth Entrepreneurship Facility plays an important role as many of the additional services and support are provided through the other five components of the YEF.



Contact Minna Mattero at mat-tero@ilo.org

Bangladesh and Vanuatu Join Lead Country Network

The YEN Lead Country Network - a group of developing countries participating in a regular benchmarking exercise of youth employment policies and programs - continues to attract new members with both Bangladesh and Vanuatu joining. There are now 19 Lead Country members.

The goal of the Network is to identify benchmarks for successful youth employment initiatives that can be shared and replicated in peer lead countries. Accordingly, Lead Countries report annually on the status of selected youth labour market indicators and progress made in terms of policy and institutional arrangements.

In May, the **Government of Bangladesh** represented by its Minister of Labour and Employment applied for membership in the Network expressing the government's expectation to benefit from YEN in keeping with its commitment to create more employment opportunities for young people. According to the Minister the long-term objective is to reduce the current youth unemployment rate of

40% to 15% in 2021.

Vanuatu is an archipelago of 83 small islands located in the south Pacific where 50% of the population is considered youth. There is mounting evidence that youth unemployment is a major contributory factor in weakening the traditional strong social fabric of the communities, and has led to increased rural to urban migration, escalating drug abuse amongst youth, rising crime rates in urban areas and a deteriorating health situation.

In recent years the Government of Vanuatu has expressed its commitment to addressing this urgent problem of youth unemployment. In 2007 the National Youth Policy was launched, of which employment was one of four priorities. This followed in May 2009 with the agreement to draft a National Action Plan on Youth

Employment (NAP) and then in October 2009, the re-establishment of the National Youth Council.



Commissioner of Labour and Vanuatu YEN focal point Mr Lionel Kaluat

Vanuatu's YEN focal point, Commissioner of Labour and Employment Services, Mr Lionel Kaluat, sees its membership

of YEN as a very positive step by the Government to help address youth unemployment:

"The services and products provided by YEN are essential to support the effective implementation of our NAP. The benchmarking tools for labour market indicators and the annual report on institutional progress will provide essential information for the Government and our social partners to guide policies and programme activities in a coordinated and strategic manner. We welcome

the support of the YEN multi-lateral partners in our efforts to address these challenges, and we will encourage our Pacific Island neighbours to join Vanuatu in YEN, so we can build a regional bloc to address our youth unemployment issues more effectively”.

The official launching of Vanuatu's NAP is planned for International Youth Day on August 12th 2010.

For more information contact Markus Pilgrim at pilgrim@ilo.org

SPOTLIGHT:

New Partnership Between YEN and the Jacobs Foundation

YEN interviews Dr. Bernd Ebersold, CEO of the Jacobs Foundation, about their new partnership with YEN to improve the evidence base for effective youth employment program delivery. The three year partnership will produce a series of rigorous impact evaluations of major youth employment programs.

Why has the Jacobs Foundation chosen to partner with YEN on this initiative?

Evidence which documents the positive impacts of youth employment programs is extremely weak, especially in developing countries. Policy makers simply do not have the information they need to make informed decision regarding the type of programme that is needed to provide jobs for their youth. Few, if any youth employment programs have shown evidence of impact – it's time we make a real effort to demonstrate not only which programs are working well but how they are working.

What is the Jacobs Foundation's mission and self understanding in terms of its working methods?

Jacobs Foundation is a Swiss based private foundation founded by the entrepreneur Klaus J. Jacobs in 1988. The Foundation provides funding and support worldwide and has an annual funding budget amounting to approximately CHF 35 million. The

Foundation deploys an approach of child and youth development, which puts emphasis on the positive opportunities of development for young people. Over the years, the Foundation has placed a major concentration of its work more and more on evidence based decision making, supporting its partners to develop monitoring and evaluation systems which focus on results, providing information that will help their organization with efficient resource allocation. The partnership with YEN is a great opportunity to support this agenda.



It is not common for Jacobs Foundation to fund activities of multilateral organizations like the UN. Why has Jacobs chosen to break with the past?

The Jacobs approach is to create close working relationships with its partners so that identified challenges can strategically and quickly be tackled.

The huge size and scope of multilateral organizations often makes it difficult for a private institution like the Jacobs Foundation to find ways to cooperate with them and to create added value in shared projects. YEN offered a project which Jacobs considered good “value for money”, keeping down overheads costs with realistic indicators for achievement and a good strategy for contributing to the evidence base.

In addition to Funding, what will be the Jacobs Foundation's role in the YEN project?

We hope to be able to take the lessons learned and recommendations from the impact evaluations and apply them to our own projects. Based on our good scientific network and funding experiences in research, evaluation is an important aspect of our work and we are even striving to proliferate qualitative evaluation techniques in every of our activities. Partner organizations of the Jacobs Foundation will be encouraged to apply to receive support through the project and attend YEN Evaluation Clinics. Additionally the Jacobs Foundation will serve on the selection committee to award grants to qualified organizations to conduct their impact evaluations. We are very much looking forward to the opportunity to engage with the YEN Network.

Contact Drew Gardiner: gardiner@ilo.org

Masters Course at ITC: Applied Labour Economics for Development

The Turin School of Development (ITC-ILO), Italy has created a new ILO-supported international Master program in Applied Labour Economics for Development (MALED). The course is intended to prepare students and professionals from both advanced and developing countries to become experts in designing, analysing and evaluating policies

that place employment at the core of economic, social and development policy making. The program will be delivered as a Master of Science by the Faculty of Economics of the University of Turin and as an Executive Master by the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences-Po).

For further information about the

Masters go to www.itcilo.org/masters/maled or email maled@itcilo.org;

The deadline to receive application is September 6, 2010.

Contact Alex Kolev at A.Kolev@itcilo.org

News from the secretariat



Fred Baseke, joined the YEN in May 2010 as the National Program Officer supporting the Youth to Youth Fund component of the Youth Employment Facility (YEF) in Uganda. He is based in Kampala, Uganda.

Fred has seven years of working and hands on management experience in non governmental organisations and the private sector. Before joining the YEN, Fred worked as the Regional Project Coordinator with the Uganda Cooperative Alliance Ltd (UCA) on youth economic empowerment under their cooperatives project. The project sought to increase incomes of young people and enhance the capacity of youth organizations to deliver sustainable services to their members.

Fred holds a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from the Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, majoring in programme management and rural development. Prior to joining the UCA, Fred worked for Nuemann Kaffee Gruppe of coffee exporting companies in Uganda, providing technical advice and guidance to farming communities and rural producer organizations (RPOs) to improve coffee productivity and household incomes.