



Title:	<i>Unleashing African Entrepreneurship - Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (YEF)</i>
Location:	Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda
Start date:	January 2010
End date:	December 2014
Coordination:	International Labour Organization and Youth Employment Network
Development objective:	To contribute to the creation of decent work for young Africans, both as a means of self-employment and as job creation for others

Background

Youth unemployment rates in Sub-Saharan Africa are high, three times higher than the average rate for adults. The percentage of working youth in Sub-Saharan Africa living in extreme poverty is 60 percent. While many youth seek wage employment in the public and private sectors, these sectors will only be able to absorb a small percentage of new job seekers entering the labour market. Formal job opportunities are scarce and there won't be jobs for all youth making self-employment the only option for many young men and women.

The vision for the *"Unleashing African Entrepreneurship - Youth Entrepreneurship Facility"*: is to enable African youth to turn their energy and ideas into business opportunities thereby increasing their incomes and creating employment. The promotion of youth entrepreneurship is one of the few feasible options to stimulate the demand side of the labour market and create income generating opportunities. The approach of the Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (YEF) is to address the underlying barriers preventing the development of youth entrepreneurship in East Africa. Without addressing these underlying barriers, we will not be able to realize the full potential of youth to become successful entrepreneurs.

The long term development goal is to contribute to the creation of decent work for young Africans, both as a means of self-employment and as job creation for others. With initial support from the Danish lead Africa Commission, the ILO and YEN have set out an ambitious agenda to spread the culture of entrepreneurship to East Africa ensuring the largest number of youth ever to come onto labour markets will have opportunities to lift themselves out of poverty and contribute to development.

The Youth Entrepreneurship Facility

The initiative will be implemented through the Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (YEF) based at the ILO area office in Tanzania and through offices in Kenya and Uganda with the YEN providing valuable support in terms of evaluation, youth participation and knowledge sharing. The basis for the work of the YEF is derived from the ILO's mandate to promote youth employment in Africa through its Decent Work Agenda for Africa, through the Regional Decent Work Programme for the East African Community 2009-2015 and Decent Work Country Programmes. The planned outcomes of the YEF are closely aligned to national development agendas and youth policies and will build on tested entrepreneurship tools and strategies developed by the ILO and YEN in Africa. These tools include the ILO's two decades of experience actively supporting micro, small and medium sized enterprise development throughout Africa and the YEN and the World Bank's experience in youth-to-youth (Y2Y) funds.

Strategic direction

The Unleashing African Entrepreneurship initiative is built on an integrated approach to youth entrepreneurship development based six strategic areas of intervention where packages of assistance are offered to young existing and would-be entrepreneurs, complementing training with advisory services, mentorship, and access to finance along with capacity building of youth organisations to promote entrepreneurship development. In addition, the facility will focus strongly on rigorous impact evaluation of youth employment and youth entrepreneurship initiatives:

Component 1: Promoting Entrepreneurship Culture

Component 2: Entrepreneurship Education

Component 3: Business development services for out-of-school youth

Component 4: Access to finance for young entrepreneurs

Component 5: Youth-to-Youth Fund

Component 6: Strengthening evidence based advocacy

The expected long term outcomes of the initiative are:

1. Attitudes towards entrepreneurship among young women and men improved
2. In-school youth have increased and continuous access to entrepreneurship education
3. Youth have increased access to business development services
4. Youth have increased access to affordable financial service
5. Youth more actively contribute to national development strategies in order to increase peer income and employment creation
6. Youth employment policy makers in a better position to make evidence based decisions in order to improve resource allocation and programme design

Expected results

- 362,250 in-school and out-of-school youth will receive entrepreneurship education and/or business skills (at least 50% young women)
- 75 innovative youth-lead employment projects will have been competitively selected and funded reaching an additional 6'000 youth
- 2 large programmes per year will have received technical and financial assistance for doing a rigorous impact evaluation (quasi-experimental using control groups)
- 5'000 existing youth led-businesses will have improved productivity and increased decent work and employment
- 11'500 new youth-led businesses will have started (at least 50% by young women)
- 23'000 new jobs will have been created by and for young women and men