



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SUMMIT (YES) REGIONAL SUPPORT PLAN – SOUTHERN AFRICA

The YES campaign is a decade campaign of action to create employment opportunities for young people around the world. The campaign was launched in Alexandria, Egypt in September 2002. The campaign seeks to create employment opportunities for young people around the world, especially youth facing poverty.

"More than one billion jobs need to be created between now and 2010 to accommodate young workers entering the labour force and reduce unemployment. Over the next two decades some less developed regions will see a temporary "bulge" in the working age population relative to older and younger dependents. This "demographic bonus" offers countries an opportunity to build human capital and spur long-term development - if they invest in education, jobs and health services..."

The State of World Population 1998, United Nations Population Fund

THE REGIONAL SUPPORT PLAN FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA



An outcome of the launch of YES in 2002 was the development of a Regional Support Plan (RSP) for Southern Africa. The RSP aims to promote and stimulate youth employment in the region through various targeted initiatives. YES Country Networks have been established in various Southern African countries. The RSP aims to work with the YES Country Networks as well as with other youth employment actors. The RSP will lay the basis for a longer-term youth employment plan for the Region. There are several components to the RSP. These components include:

- **Regional needs analysis:** A thorough analysis of relevant stakeholder needs in the different SADC countries using the existing YES Country Networks as a point of entrance. The analysis will focus on capacity building and information needs.
- **Database on Youth Statistics in Southern Africa:** A database on youth statistics in Southern Africa will be produced. The statistics will include information on Southern African context, youth-specific economic indicators, education and skills, youth-specific employment policies, key challenges, social and political integration.
- **Regional consultation:** A consultative meeting of YES Country Networks in the region and other specific youth employment actors, towards collective support and implementation of the RSP.
- **Knowledge development:** A detailed and systematic study on existing, successful youth employment initiatives in the Region examining the possibilities of replication within the Region.



- **Entrepreneurial Education in Secondary schools and Vocational Training Centres:** A pilot project on the introduction and implementation of entrepreneurial education in the school curriculum of secondary schools and vocational training centres in at least 3 Southern African countries together with the development of education policy recommendations.
- **Mentorship:** A pilot project enhancing youth businesses through mentoring relationships with private sector staff and young entrepreneurs.
- **Regional training workshop:** A training workshop with various youth employment actors based on capacity building needs identified in the Regional Needs Analysis.
- **Preparation and presentation of the regional model:** Documentation and presentation on RSP for Southern Africa to the next YES Summit in Mexico 2004.

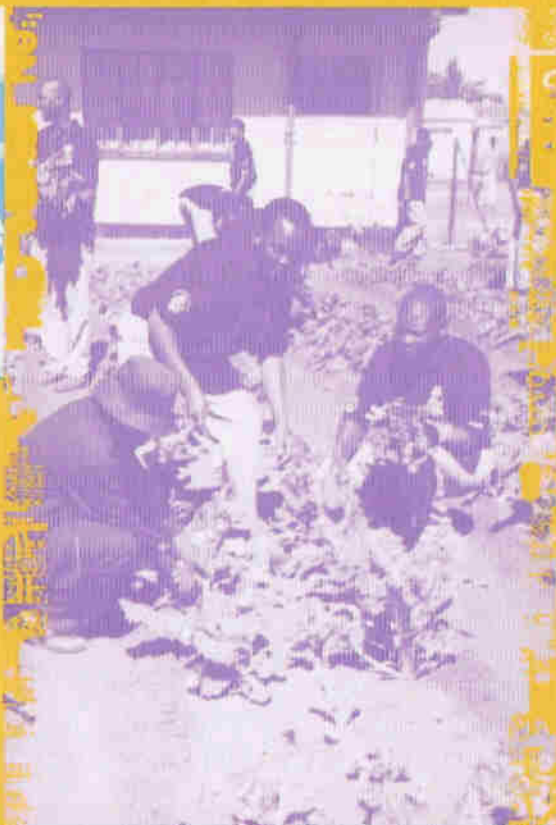
YES Secretariat

The YES Secretariat is based in Boston, USA. The Secretariat provides support to the YES Country Networks across the globe. The Secretariat will assist the YDN in implementing the RSP as well as communicate the lessons learnt to other YES Country Networks outside of Southern Africa.



The YDN

The Youth Development Network (YDN) is a South African national network of seven youth development NGO's, based in South Africa. The work of its' member organisations with young people lie primarily in the areas of skills training, youth entrepreneurship and community youth development. At a national level the YDN focuses on research and documentation, advocacy and capacity building.



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