

Young Africa Newsletter

Young African Touch

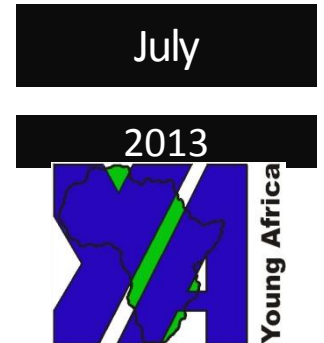
Youth development and vocational training are hot at the moment. Since the start of Young Africa we have strongly advocated among donors and government to see youngsters as the key to change in society. Vocational training is the game changer to make youngsters co-responsible for development. We feel increased availability of finances for youth and employment is a very positive trend (hoping it's a permanent insight and not just the latest fashion...). The benefits for YA: Yvette and Dirk Bellens make the move to Namibia to set up a YA training centre. YA Zimbabwe started a mobile vocational training unit. YA Mozambique in Beira is 100% self-reliant and in Dondo the new agricultural training centre is coming up. For daily snippets of news you can follow us on Twitter (@YAdorien and YA_NamDirk). For in-depth information on the results of last year, see our annual report <http://www.youngafrica.org/images/AnnualReport/annualreport2012.pdf>.

And below the Young African Touch.

Thanks for keeping in YA touch!

Raj A. Joseph & Dorien Beurskens

executive directors Young Africa International



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YA International

A Message from our Treasurer: Making a Move within Africa

A few weeks ago while in Mozambique, I witnessed the move of our Directors and Founders Dorien en Raj. With all their belongings and carvings, they moved from the project in Manga-Beira to the new project for agricultural education in Dondo, about 25 kilometers away. Unlike the Beira project, which is located off a major road, the Dondo project is located six kilometers inland from the village of Dondo. The only way to get there is via a very dusty, dirt road full of potholes. Coincidence or not: a week before the move, part of this dirt road was widened. Whether that had to do with the Governor of Sofala province's official visit on Agri-Tech will always remain a mystery.

What does a move in Africa look like? Just as in the Netherlands, months prior to the move, one has to clean and sort everything. Luckily here all the excess things easily find a second or third home.

Thanks to a benevolent sponsor, Dorien and Raj received a completely new one-story house. The construction went smoothly, though definitely in an African manner, meaning that almost everything is a bit topsy-turvy. Despite clear drawings, which had been extensively discussed with electricians, carpenters, plumbers, painters, etc. beforehand, the workmen moved ahead under their own discretion...Here is one example: above the sink, on the left-hand side, there are six electricity sockets, yet not one socket on the right-hand side. Also, almost all the machines and ventilators are connected as one group, which means that nothing really works well and the sockets continuously blow a fuse. And since we are on the topic of electricity: Constructing electricity lines for Agri-Tech in Dondo was not an easy undertaking because the project is located in an area where electricity or running water does not even exist. The electricity source is several kilometers away. Not only is the electricity connection expensive, but also the telephone and fuel costs for trips to the energy company are high. Ultimately a day before the move, the electricity was successfully connected. Remember, coincidence or not: the Governor did, after all, come to visit!

Fortunately, Young Africa has its own truck. With the help of some workers, the household belongings were loaded in Beira and then unloaded in Dondo. The truck's cab doesn't have a cover, so you can imagine how 'clean' the stuff arrived in Dondo: completely covered in sand. However, after a few days of unpacking, cleaning and arranging, everything is now in its place. It should also be made clear that quality is not yet obvious in Africa. Young Africa, therefore, really tries to make its students aware of this fact.

International Bank Account Number

No doubt you have heard of the impending changes in the payment system. International transfers are now being routed to an international bank account. Young Africa must also take part in this. **The new IBAN number is: NL03ABNA 0466 782 063.**

Please note this change in your financial records.





School Actions

A short while ago all the students from the second classes of the mavo/havo from Thorbecke College in Zwolle carried out a campaign for Young Africa. The result was -- including the donation of Wild Geese – more than € 2500



Students of Commerce & Administration, from the third year of VMBO Waardenborch in Holten, sold African products in various shops in Holten, Markelo, Bathmen, Colmschate, New Heeten and Goor. Just as in Zwolle, this campaign was also linked to a project week in which the distribution of information on Young Africa played an integral role.



Many thanks for your efforts!

YA Mozambique

YA Beira

It is going well with the training center in Beira. In the past 6 months there were 1,200 students, have received their diplomas on June 28. Since this year, the center is 100% self-sufficient, meaning it is financially and organizationally independent.



YA Dondo

Team

We formed a team for Young Africa Agri-Tech. When we conducted job interviews in April, we spoke with 85% male candidates. And ended up choosing 3 women! From 1 May we work with Ana Ramos as farm manager, Marta Limbe as administrator, Constance Mavura as secretary. Sacara Simango continues as works manager, Lydia Kummer is responsible for curriculum development & programmes and Siegfried Kummer (both from Horizont3000) for capacity building in agriculture. Raj A. Joseph & Dorien Beurskens function as directors.



Construction

Thanks to contract with the European Commission, Wild Geese and YA International that started on the 1st of January, the construction of the workshops at Agri-Tech could start. The 1200m² of workshop space in 2 buildings will house milk processing, fruit processing, vegetable packing, milling & grinding of grains and a mini-factory for animal feed. Besides, still in June we will start construction of stables for cows and chicken. The development of the farm has commenced as well. The first vegetable seeds will be planted this week.

Residence at Agri-Tech

It was a hurdle, but one finally overcome: electricity at Agri-Tech. The 3kms long connection was paid for by YA, the Mozambican electricity board and the Municipality of Dondo. With this, water supply could be linked up and the directors' house could be finalised. On the 17th May, Raj and Dorien moved into their new house at Agri-Tech in Dondo, in the helpful presence of Mathieu (treasurer YA International) and Trijn Beurskens. Director Aksana Varela & family will live in the residence at YA Beira.



Visits Governor Sofala & Irish Ambassador

Among many visitors of (N)GO's, we received on the 18th of May, the Governor of Sofala Province and his team. The Governor said he was impressed by the ambitious plans for agricultural skills training of the Mozambican youth and stressed its importance in the fight against poverty and unemployment. On 1+2 April the Irish Ambassador and his wife had elaborate tours of YA Beira and YA Dondo. Ex officio he is also director of Irish Aid that has financed the hostel and other programmes of YA Mozambique.



YA Zimbabwe Director visits Serve Ireland



The director had the opportunity to visit Ireland on the invitation of Serve Ireland. She visited Dublin AIDS Alliance, Christian AID and an out of school program in Dublin. Her main reason for the visit was to give a talk about Young Africa regarding vocational training. Vocational training was never an MDG goal and now in the development world people are discussing post 2015 MDG goals and it is our desire that it must be included because youth are the future of any nation and they require vocational skills.

Epworth Expansion



Construction is progressing well and the building is 95% complete. The contractor has just finished roofing and is now working on the ceiling, window and door frames. We are expecting the project to be completed by end of June. We have started sourcing equipment for the three workshops. Marketing for catering department began in anticipation to start training basic catering (6months) by July or August 2013.



YA Zimbabwe in Goromonzi



YA Zimbabwe has introduced mobile vocational training to rural youths in Goromonzi. After having received a boost in our equipment from donors over the past 2 years, the organization decided to reach out to youths in rural areas that do not have access to vocational training facilities using the same equipment. In May 2013 YA Zimbabwe started training in carpentry, welding, catering, hairdressing and cutting and designing. Currently 110 youths are benefiting from the program.



YA Namibië

Yvette and Dirk leaving for Namibia



On 17 July, Yvette and Dirk Bellens, together with their two daughters, will be swapping their lives in the Netherlands for a new life in Namibia. As founders and directors of Young Africa Namibia, they will set up a new, energy-neutral Young Africa Skills Centre in Kuisebmond, Walvis Bay, offering various market-oriented skills training programmes to the underprivileged youth and operating as a knowledge centre in solar technology. In September they will start the first training course in solar technology, training students in the installation and maintenance of solar panels, in combination with basic electronics. As at all other YA centres, the students will get compulsory courses in Life Skills, HIV/AIDS and entrepreneurship, as well as assistance in finding attachments and/or (self-) employment. With this project "A sunny future for underprivileged youth in Namibia" Dirk and Yvette won the Dutch ASN Global Award 2011 and the Dutch campaign 'Cycling Scores' in 2012.

Wild Geese supports start-up YA Namibia



The Dutch foundation Wild Geese is sponsoring the start-up of YA Namibia and its first project in solar technology. They will add 55% to each donation! Your donation will directly benefit the young people in Kuisebmond, offering them a sunny future. For €50,- a student can do the complete training course, a donation of €20,- will pay for a student's toolkit. Smaller donations are also welcome, added together they offer the same support.



Check <https://www.wildeganzen.nl/nc/projecten/project/wgp/Namibië/start-beroepsopleiding-op-het-vlak-van-zonne-energie/46/> for more information.

Donations are welcome to the account of Young Africa International with the discription Young Africa Namibia.