

YOUNG AFRICA NEWSLETTER

YOUNG AFRICAN TOUCH

With humble pride we present to you in this YA Touch the stories and images of the progress of Young Africa in 2012. Our Annual Report 2011 is out too, with the theme 'investment in growth'. For who would like to read it, there's a download available: <http://www.youngafrica.org/images/AnnualReport/annualreport2011.pdf>.

Our results are getting more significant and are documented and evaluated better. The franchise model is being replicated more than ever and with wider impact. The Mozambican Minister of Education is planning to apply it on the governmental vocational training schools.

Yet, professionalism in development work could one risk: lack of inspiration and enthusiasm. That is exactly what we would like to keep feeling and radiating: the zeal to contribute to make the world a better place. The sincere passion to give even that one youngster the opportunity to build up a life of dignity. Our success must be visible on her/his face. That there are many of them, is even better. Capacity building in Africa is the key to share and spread our inspiration.

Who, through social media, would like to get an update on a (nearly) daily basis, follow us on Twitter (@YAdorien) and Facebook/Young Africa. Who would like to contribute actively, vote for YA Namibia and help youngsters in Walvisbay to get training in solar technology (see p.3).

In this YA Touch an overview of the past 6 months. Stay tuned, keep in YA Touch.

Raj A. Joseph & Dorien Beurskens
executive directors Young Africa International

JUNE

2012



YA INTERNATIONAL

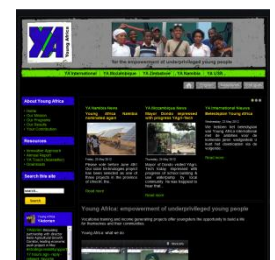
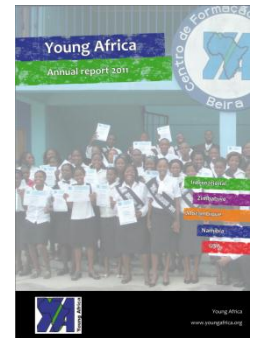
YA International in The Netherlands has been looking for experts in PR, marketing and communication. In two meetings with the private sector in Apeldoorn and Deventer, we succeeded in creating linkages with private companies willing to share their expertise. With their help, we fine-tuned our policy paper. It is being translated into English now and will be put on the website soon. A match with a marketing expert led to two interesting brainstorming sessions, resulting in a useful annual plan. The annual report 2011 is ready and can be found on our website. For the first time, we integrated the financial statements into the report. It took some time and problem solving to get a format that was workable for all Young Africa branches.

The letter head, business cards, and the website of Young Africa were restyled, following the same style as the YA leaflet designed by Amazing. The homepage changed: news items and Twitter appear on the homepage, and a link to YA Facebook as well. A page for YA Namibia was created. "About Young Africa", with short info on YA, was added as well. Go to www.youngafrica.org to see the results.

One of our members of the Board, Mette Gonggrijp, was appointed Ambassador of Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador. We are sorry to let her go, but congratulate her with her new job and thank her for all the work she did for Young Africa. We also thank RUAC, the company in Apeldoorn which permitted us for years to use their office and warehouse. Last year RUAC was sold, so we cannot use the premises any more. We asked with success to create a vast room for exposition of the YA statues in the warehouse of Wensing, another company in Apeldoorn that supports YA for years already. We are still looking for offices we may use for free and incidentally.

We finalized the Upgrading Machinery Project. We fundraised in 2010 for new machines and computers for the departments of Young Africa Zimbabwe. In 2011 all the equipment was bought and installed under the expert guidance of general manager Enet Mukurazita. The Head of Departments were instructed how to use the new machinery. This year will show how the new equipment will influence production and number of students. The self reliance of YASC has already increased to 70% in spite of enormous raise of costs throughout the whole of the Zimbabwean society. We thank our loyal donors Wild Geese and NCDO for their support for this project.

We are now looking for support for the Young Africa Agricultural Training Centre in Dondo, Mozambique. Several fundraisers are being held: students of the Thorbecke College of Zwolle and the Waerdenborch of Holten did their best to raise money for Young Africa. During the Summer, Young Africa will be present at different cultural fairs. Wild Geese increases the amount raised by Young Africa International. We will spend the money on agricultural machinery and the construction of classrooms.



YA ZIMBABWE



The year 2011 ended with 146 students graduating from the Chitungwiza campus. The guest of Honour was the Principal Director in the Ministry of Youth Development, Dr Chitepo. In Epworth 26 students graduating with certificates in dressmaking and computers.



In January 2012 we started our first Form 1 class with 8 students. The Ministry of Education as well as ZIMSEC now require schools to operate like a normal high school instead of just having O level coaching. The Form 1's have so many subjects and in the second quarter we are planning to introduce them to practical subjects like Cookery, Fashion and Fabrics, Carpentry and Welding. Young Africa has a competitive advantage that other non-government high schools do not have which are infrastructure, equipment and space.



February 2012 was the commencement of "Kick Out AIDS and Save them Young" programme which is being funded by the King Baoudin Foundation of Belgium. The primary objective of the project is to lobby for HIV/AIDS prevention through circumcision and encouraging young people to know their HIV status through a mini girls' and boys' soccer league for six (6) colleges in Chitungwiza. Information dissemination will be achieved through peer educators who will educate youths during matches as well as through the establishment of a mobile information centre to be dubbed the youth village. The mobile youth village will be pitched at all match venues.



YA MOZAMBIQUE

Events & Achievements

On the Staff team of Young Africa Beira, three new dynamic and qualified persons came on board: 2 Hostel mothers, one of whom also does youth counselling and conducts life-skills classes, and an Administrator. The day-to-day running of the centre is entirely given to Mozambican management. The local team is successfully carrying out the objectives of Young Africa and leading Skills training centre to greater heights. The project is reaching 75% self sustainability.



The student enrolment is increasing. With 22 courses on offer, in March 2012 the number reached 1044 students. The library is gaining in popularity. JOJO, the youth club has been revived offering to the youth of area facilities for sports and games. The Sports Festival held in 24 March had 46 teams competing in basketball, football and volleyball. On 2 May, the applications for new courses for July have started coming in. Monthly meetings with heads of the departments and staff motivate the whole staff of Young Africa to become involved with the vision and mission of Young Africa.

Through our Austrian partner Horizont 3000, we received two capacity builders – one for the Sound Studio and another for youth services. The expert from Dutch Organisation PUM, has drawn up a plan for boosting the Micro Credit programme and besides helping the Heads of the various departments to draw up a business plan, he helped two departments to get loan from Zero-Caps NL.



Our challenges for 2012 are:

1. To improve the quality of our training, to keep pace with the demands of labour market and with other training centres. We need to study the viability of increasing the duration of the courses.
2. From 75 % self sustainability, to move in 2013-14 to a full 100% and diminish our dependence on donors.
3. The keep building the capacity of our heads of the departments and all staff, to live up to our challenges.

Young Africa Agri Tech Dondo.

Building works have started on class room blocks, funded by SERVE -Ireland and Wilde Ganzen. Serve, also funded a bore well and until the arrival of power supply, we will be with hand-pump set. On 29 April the new bore well with its pumset was blessed with the local folks participating. The pump is servicing the local community well: hundreds come to collect water because they say 'the drinking water is very good and it saves them an hour walk'.

The Mayor of Dondo visited YAgri-Tech. He was impressed with the progress of school building and the use of the waterpump by local community. He was happiest to hear that the 50 head strong workforce come from Dondo and are recruited and recommended by the local chiefs. We are using interlocking bricks, that are eco-friendly and made on site by local guys, with our own sand.



YA NAMIBIA

Happy faces in Namibia

In February Dirk and Yvette, together with their 2 little girls, paid a 3-week visit to Namibia to take further steps in getting the first projects off the ground. They especially focused on networking with those involved in solar energy. Dirk and Yvette want to set up an energy neutral training centre, and offer skills training in solar energy technologies, for which they won an award in the Netherlands November 2011. They were met with a lot of enthusiasm and interest to join the project, though it proved to be hard to find a local entrepreneur able and willing to franchise the solar technology department to. "We will most likely train a successful local entrepreneur active in a different area of work, but eager to join us, in solar technologies, so he/she can run the department successfully".



In the race for sustainable development award: please vote before June 4th!

Our solar technologies project has been selected as one of three projects in the province of Utrecht, the Netherlands, that compete for an award on sustainable development, with a focus on climate change. The project getting the most votes wins the award. We would really appreciate your support once more. Voting only takes a minute.

In order to vote: please go to the link below (or google Fietsen scoort Young Africa):

<http://www.fietsenscoort.nl/sponsor-projecten/utrecht/young-africa-namibia-een-zonnige-toekomst-voor-kansarme-kinderen-in>

Under the heading "Stem op dit project" there are 2 red buttons, click on the right red button saying "Stem zonder bedrijfscode". Finally, in the new screen, press again on the red button saying "Stem". Once again, thanks for your support!

YA USA



Young Africa International meets Young Africa USA on the 8th of May at the National Airport Schiphol in the Netherlands.

