



## Youth Employment Systems

Employability • Employment Creation • Equity • Entrepreneurship  
• Environmental Sustainability • Empowerment

---

*Let us be clear. Half-educated, unemployed youth, with no prospect of being integrated into a better future is a prescription for disaster. If young people do not have a stake in the existing social order and political order, if they do not feel there is a way for them, why should they sacrifice today for a better tomorrow? Why should they have an interest in protecting the stability and social safety of that system?*

Ismail Serageldin Vice President, World Bank May 1999

**On September 11, 2002** under the Co-Chair of Mrs. Mubarak and President Clinton, the Youth Employment Summit launched a Campaign to create a **systems** approach to youth employment generation (YES) was launched by over 1,600 delegates from 120 countries, including 45 ministers. Four years of global consultation (1998 – 2002) culminated in five dynamic Summit days that led to the development of a concerted response to the problems faced by unemployed youth. In four years by the end of 2006 the Campaign had organized 3 Global Summits – Egypt, Mexico, Kenya and 2 Regional Forums – India and Paraguay; launched over 50 YES Country Networks, initiated more than 400 projects all over the world, and published more than 100 original publications.

**YES Inc.** serves the following objectives:

- (1) **Build the YES Fund:** Global Program for Youth Entrepreneurship (Clinton Global Initiative)
- (2) **Build Capacity of the 50 plus YES Country Leaders** to develop programs
- (3) **Organize the 3 remaining YES Summits** (Azerbaijan 2008, (TBD) 2010, Alexandria 2012)
- (4) **Organize Youth Social Entrepreneurship programs**

### **Our Challenge – consider this:**

- ⇒ World population has reached 6 billion. One billion are young people between the ages of 15 - 24 years, out of which 850 million are living in developing countries.
- ⇒ Estimates project that over the next three decades the global labor force between the ages of 15 - 24 will increase in sheer numbers by another 1.2 billion. Most of this growth will be in developing countries.
- ⇒ One of the greatest challenges facing the world is to generate productive work opportunities for the young people in developing countries and enhancing the skill level of youth in developed countries.
- ⇒ Out of 6 billion of us, 1.3 billion live on less than a \$1 a day, and 3 billion under \$2 a day.

### **Our Design Principles:**

Three major principles underlie this mission.

**First**, the YES Campaign believes that every person is capable of leading and seeks to provide opportunities for youth to realize their leadership abilities. **Next**, the Campaign believes in the power of knowledge-sharing and is aware that many effective practices exist. The challenge is to identify these practices and to create opportunities for dissemination, replication, adaptation, and learning. **Third**, the YES Campaign strives to act as a catalyst that inspires fresh and innovative approaches to human development by connecting critical stakeholders in the private and public sectors. The Campaign focuses on youth, the creative change agents of today, to drive this effort.

---

**Contact:** Ms. Poonam Ahluwalia, President, YES Inc. **Email:** [poonam@yesweb.org](mailto:poonam@yesweb.org)

**Address:** Youth Employment Systems, Inc. Cambridge College, 1000 Mass Ave, Cambridge, MA USA

**Website:** [www.yesweb.org](http://www.yesweb.org)



## Youth Employment Systems

Employability • Employment Creation • Equity • Entrepreneurship  
• Environmental Sustainability • Empowerment

---

**(1) Build the YES Fund** – A Global Fund for Youth Entrepreneurship. In today’s world with burgeoning populations there are just not enough jobs in the private and public sectors. The YES fund will work to create markets and unleash entrepreneurship in developing countries by helping young people to identify business opportunities, prepare their business plans and compete for the best ideas. This fund will support young entrepreneurs to participate in the Business Plan competition and the winners will be provided small-scale risk capital, start-up funding, credit and loan guarantees, and innovative business development services to start their businesses.

**(2) Build the capacity of the YES Leaders to develop their Country Networks.** To generate an in-country infrastructure of youth-led networks to disseminate information, develop programs, be advocates for innovative policies, and implement projects that promote youth employment and leadership. Currently there are over 50 YES Country Networks in various stages of development. They will be provided leadership and entrepreneurship training to help them develop the systems and partnerships needed to generate youth employment.

**(3) Organize the 3 remaining YES Summits (Azerbaijan 2008, TBD 2010, Alexandria 2012):** To continue to hold and maintain a burning focus on the issue of youth unemployment on the global agenda: we do this by convening stakeholders at our Global Summits which have been held in Egypt 2002, Mexico 2004 and Kenya 2006. The next one in 2008 is in Azerbaijan. At these Summits – the youth delegates meet with experts, donors, practitioners, and other stakeholders to develop program and policies that will help build in-country capacity to provide the education, training and other services needed by young people to find productive work.

**(4) Launch YES Fellows – a Youth Social Entrepreneurship program** this program will provide the practical training and development services for engaging and inspiring young people to ‘be the change they want to see’. It will take the lessons learnt and pathways unfolding through the work of the YES Fellows over the last 8 years to become a leading program for building the capacity of young people to be change makers. It aims to become a source for innovative and creative solutions for action in the social sector. All of the programs offered will have a theoretical and a project based approach to learning.

*...All good ideas are pipe-dreams if not backed by committed leadership and investment – we are seeking yours. We have spent the last five years placing the issue of youth employment on the global agenda, making a call for action, building coalitions, and piloting good ideas. We need your help to move the Youth Employment Campaign to the next level to our shared passion for generating youth employment to the resources that can make it happen. We have uncovered bubbling youth leadership and drive; identified promising sectors for employment generation; enrolled world leaders; built partnerships; discovered quantifiable, innovative and practical solutions; and overseen the development of world-wide youth networks that provide the perfect vehicle for unleashing the talents and energies of youth to create sustainable livelihoods. With your active involvement we can make a world of difference in the lives of thousands of youth in developing countries around the globe. We invite you to make a difference*

...After the final no there comes a yes and on that *YES* the future of the world hangs...”  
~ Wallace Stevens (1879 – 1955)