



# YES '06 DAILY NEWS



YES KENYA 2006

September 13 - 16, 2006

Nairobi, KENYA

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## The Youthful Farmer Who Grows Mushrooms For a Living



Chido Govera (r), an orphaned lady from Zimbabwe, talks to her donor (Gunter Pauli) about the success of her mushroom business during the ongoing Youth Employment Summit. She's accompanied by her foster mother Margaret Tagwira.

BY MERCY WAMBUI

The story by young Zimbabwean girl about developing a sustainable livelihood programme was perhaps one of the most emotional and practical presentation at the YES Kenya 2006.

Chido Govera, while making her presentation proved to the world that we can succeed and economically empower ourselves regardless of the misfortunes we face in life. At 20 years old, she is a heroin who despite going through a tough childhood, is determined to make it in life.

Orphaned at 8 years and left with a 6 year old brother in the hands of her 80 year-old grandmother, Chido had to take the responsibility of a father, mother and sister all rolled into one.

With nobody to support her, she had to take care of her elderly granny and her brother who needed food and education. It was tough and she had to sacrifice her education to concentrate on her loved ones. At 14 years old, a research scientist Margaret Tagwira started a project on mushroom production.

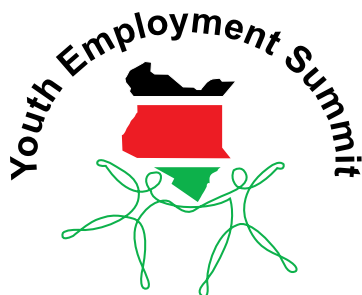
Fifteen orphaned girls were recruited at Africa University inn Zimbabwe for a certificate course

in Mushroom Production under the sponsorship of Zeri Foundation. Regardless of their age and level of education, the scientific concept of mushroom was well explained and the girls graduated. Like many countries in Africa, 13 of the 15 young women got married.

Margaret, in fear of loosing all the girls so young for marriage, took in the two to her house for mentorship. She became a mother and a teacher to the girls and taught them life skills as well as mushroom production. Six years later and Chido is the only girl in the group of initial 15 who only believed that marriage was not a priority. Her success in the mushroom production business has proved that people need education but it is not enough without the skills.

"I want to get educated but I need to acquire more skills and work together with orphans and youth in the community through mentorship programmes." She says with her eyes lighting up. Chido is set to graduate her "O" levels in three months time at Odzi High School.

Chido is a success story from Africa, like if we could have more of her the world will be a better place. Being orphaned at a tender age is the norm in Africa, especially where HIV/AIDS is killing both parents.



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# Yes Kenya Network To Sign An MOU With State Of Andhra Pradesh In India

BY DORCAS MALLEI

The YES networks of Kenya and India have partnered to promote sustainable livelihoods of young people in both countries and initiate projects targeting their youth members and organizations.

The partnership will aim at establishing exchange programs between the two countries which will involve youth members from the two countries to engage in training programs. The training program which will be launched in a month's time will involve sending the first bunch of Kenyan Youth to Andhra Pradesh State to the Swami Ramananda Tirtha Rural Institute.

The other areas of focus in the partnership will include building the capacities of the two networks through training, sharing knowledge on curbing HIV/AIDS, Information Communication Technologies and Renewable energy.

During a joint press conference yesterday at the YES Kenya 2006 Summit, the YES Kenya Country Network Coordinator, Mr. Emmanuel Dennis Ngongo expressed his commitment to ensure full involvement of youth representatives from all the districts in Kenya to benefit in the partnership.

He noted that during the post summit process, the network will put in place institutional framework to engage in partnership with various service provision organizations that will trickle down to the grass root areas in the country.

Ms. Yamuna Pathak, the State Coordinator for YES India indicated her joy of having attended the summit and will finally seal a deal with YES Kenya that will foster in helping the youth tap in the enormous opportunities that multi-stakeholders in India committed to the global call of creating sustainable livelihoods for Youth in India.

India provides one of the fastest growing economies of the world in the sectors of

Entrepreneurship, ICT and Renewable energy and it is hoped that the YES Kenya members will tremendously benefit from the partnership.

"We are working on a strategy to establish a center of excellence on Youth Employment that will help the youth from all parts of the country access foreign support through initiating projects on sustainable development in their communities" Said Emmanuel. He further stated that the partnership with Andhra Pradesh is among the first and others will follow especially during the post summit process.

There is need to open doors to the Kenyan youths to the international stakeholders that will be able to have positive impacts to their lives. The summit has been able to give a platform to all networks to find ways of collaborating and working together.

Kenya and India partnership is an example of young people coming together bridging the distance between them and showing the world, youths all over can come together and work to empower themselves.

## Tearful Chido Pours Out Her Heart To The World

BY G.S.G NYAKUNDI & EVA KURGAT

Chido Govero told her story. Chido shed tears while she told the story she held back her tears. And when she shed her tears before the delegates to the Global Youth Summit she held back her story. It was as if the weight of one could not bear the weight of the other.

But who is Chido? Probably no one would ever tell. Chido? She is only twenty, when like many a youth, she is sprouting with life.

Chido has seen and borne the pain of suffering she is an orphan .....she is unemployed.....she is a Zimbabwean who has left so much of her tears at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre and the world wept with her!.

Chido's parents died while she was eight years old. Her sibling brother was only six. They were left in the care of their grandmother who aged over eighty. She too had to be fended for by Chido.

She is the girl who grew mushrooms to pay for her education and make ends meet.

After she stopped crying she told the delegates and the youth "never give up".

So this is the story of Chido!

Chido's story is one of the many that have to convince the world to take a closer look at unemployment and the orphaned youth.

## The Government and The Private Sector's Role In Attracting Foreign Direct Investment

BY ELIZABETH OMBATI AND EDWIN MAINA

The private sector has been called upon to assist in tackling challenges that affect the youth.

Speaking at the Youth Employment Summit being held in Nairobi, Kenya's Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade Mr. David Nalo termed issues of youth as issues of prosperity that needed to be addressed urgently.

He said building capacity for youth employment is one avenue of employment generation that should be looked at.

On building trade capacity and attracting foreign direct investment to the country, Mr.Nalo said there was need to maintain globalization through economic integration.

"The need for countries to do business with one another should always be encouraged," he noted. "There is need to have regimes that allow us to trade together."

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*Cheerful young Delegates in one of the 'Break-Out' sessions.*

The space of trade, he said, needs to be expanded through regional integration thus barriers that hinder trade and investment should be done away with.

Embracing science and technology to support growth and industry is another area that developing countries need to explore so as to attract foreign direct investment.

Speaking on the same issue, Arvind Mayaram, Joint Secretary to the ministry of Finance in India, said his government was creating employment avenues in which they hope to engage young entrepreneurs.

He, however, said governments must review policies that impede the youth from engaging in business.

“Policies of most governments are not always conducive for local entrepreneurs”, he said. “Visa is not always accessible to the business people. Such legal frameworks need to be lifted hence encourage and help the youth to move beyond their boundaries,” he said.

Mr. Arvind noted that in as much as globalization fuelled by Information and Communication Technology had made life easy, there was need to break regional boundaries that affect foreign investment.

The public sector, he noted, could always facilitate the state in creating viable legal frameworks for budding entrepreneurs whereas the private sector and potential investors could always work in close collaboration to enhance creation of employment avenues.

Mr. Nelson Ndirangu the permanent mission of Kenya to the UN-Geneva said that the traditional concept of confining trade within countries at the same level of development should be reviewed.

“It is time African youth are encouraged to have an innovative approach to life. They should think beyond the continent of Africa,” he said.

## The Untold Story of The International Red Cross Society's (IRC) Work In The World andhra Pradesh In India

BY ERIC MWIKYA AND ARGWINGS OWITI

Leaving his family behind at a refugee camp in Northern Uganda, James (left) is a 21-year old carpentry trainee who recently returned to South Sudan in search of work and education opportunities.

James is facing difficulty entering the formal school system in Sudan due to his age, differences in curriculum requirements and lack of money for school fees. But the IRC is not leaving his plight to chance.

At the ongoing youth employment summit in Nairobi, the humanitarian body is telling a story of its endeavors to assist young people from disadvantaged communities in various parts of the world.

In Southern Sudan, the IRC is offering vocational skills training for vulnerable youth and offering literacy and business skills classes. Courtesy of the IRC, James is hoping that the training he receives will help him qualify to continue his studies and prepare him for lucrative work opportunities in the future.

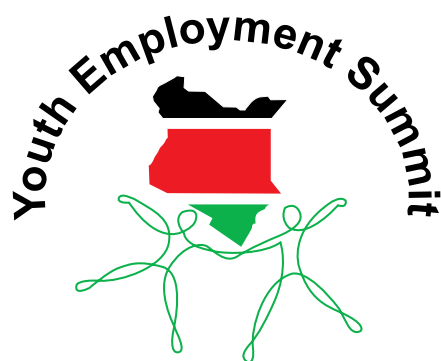
In Herat Province in Afghanistan, the IRC has helped vulnerable young widows by reviving the traditional livelihood of sericulture (the commercial breeding of silkworms for silk). Each beneficiary was provided with business skills training, one crate of silkworm eggs imported from China, mulberry leaves and required implements to set up home-based silkworm production.

The program has had a significant impact, with more than 300% return on investment and profits reaching as high as \$12,000 per hectare for 240 women in only 3 months! In addition to respecting local traditions regarding women's economic activity, the program has also enabled many children to go to school for the first time.

The same story plays itself out in Liberia where IRC Liberia supports youth livelihoods by providing skills training through apprenticeships and support to entrepreneurs, and increasing employment opportunities.

To date, more than 700 women and children associated with fighting forces are currently enrolled in IRC-supported skills training or apprenticeship programs and over half of these have received in-kind business grants to enable them to start their own small businesses.

After 9 months of training, these young women are taken on as full-time tailors in shops where they are apprenticed. Most of them are now using an embroidering machine to produce delicately embroidered garments and cloths that sell profitably in Liberia and neighboring countries.



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## Develop Sustainable Livelihood Programs For The Young People-world Leaders Told.

BY ELIZABETH OMBATI AND CHARLES LANGAT

**D**evelopment of sustainable livelihood has been and continues to be a global concern and there is need to put people at the centre of development for that sustenance.

Speaking yesterday at the global Youth Employment Summit in Nairobi, the minister for Labour and Human Resource Development, Hon. Newton Kulundu, said that poverty alleviation and reduction of unemployment were among focal points that would aid sustainable livelihoods.

In tackling poverty, the minister said that heads of states had committed themselves to addressing issues of employment creation and alleviation of poverty in 2004 during the African Union Extra Ordinary Summit.

“The Kenyan government has embraced this priority and for the last three years an average of 460,000 jobs have been created per year,” he said amid noise from unbelieving Kenyan young delegates.

The need to make the already created jobs sustainable still remains a challenge to many countries of the world since most of these jobs are in the informal sector and their survival is not guaranteed.

To address the problem, the minister, giving a Kenyan example, said that priority has been given to the agricultural sector and rural development which in turn has helped many young people to improve their lives.

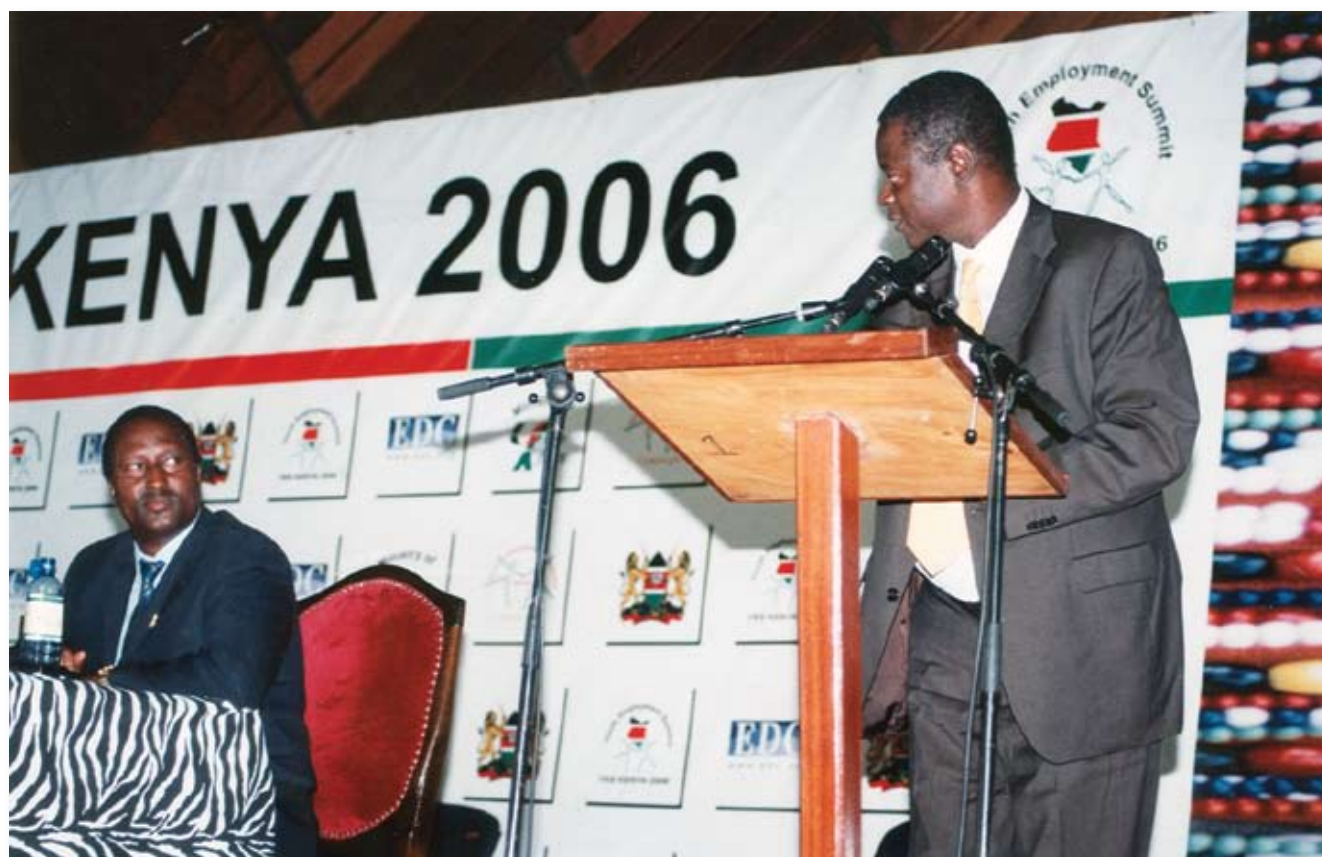
The minister challenged the youth to undertake global conservation activities as a key step to sustainable livelihoods.

The minister affirmed the Kenyan government’s strategy of focusing on women and youth in the fight against poverty.

The micro and small enterprise sector in Kenya currently employs 5.5 million people majority of who are young people and thus the government’s readiness to work with the sector.

The government has embarked on employment intensive infrastructure projects including rural electrification to help curb rural-urban migration and bring about employment creation for young people.

“The recognition that the youth are the future and prosperity of any given country is a wake up call to all world leaders to ensure they have sustainable livelihoods,” he said.



Hon. Newton Kulundu, Minister of Labour & Human Resources addresses Delegates at the Summit

# The Concept Of Youth Enterprise Fund Is Worth Giving a Try

BY CHRIS CHIMANO AND CHARLES CHIGIRI

The Kenya government is taking the lead in a new move the world over to embrace entrepreneurship in job creation as opposed to public sector based employment.

The government took the delegates through this new trend at the ongoing conference when it announced that it had allocated 1 billion shillings this financial year to the Youth Enterprise Development Fund kitty.

The new Ministry created just last December, has however, not finalized plans to disburse the Fund. The Minister for Youth, Mohammed Abdi Kuti says final touches are being put on a document deemed to inform the operational structures of the fund.

Says he: "The document to inform the operational and governance structures of the Fund will be out before the end of this month. But we intend to give legal existence to the fund sometime this October and to officially commence disbursement in December".

The Youth Ministry says the fund would be accessed by the youth who will be able to present viable business plans to financial institutions being identified by the Ministry.

Over the past three months since the budget announcement of the fund by the minister for finance, the ministry has been engrossed in a tedious task of formulating guidelines through broader consultation with various stakeholders, particularly the youth themselves.

Janet Wamuyu, representing YES Kenya reiterated the Ministry's position saying the groundwork for disbursing the Fund was done adding that what remained now was dissemination of the guidelines to the youth in all regions of the country after official media announcement by the ministry.

It is believed that management of this fund will promote public-private sector partnership, improve the livelihood of the youth and thus realize the national agenda for youth development.

"It's a success story that young people from other countries who were in this session will share. My plea for my fellow youths in Kenya is utilize this opportunity fully". Said Janet.

The Kenyan youth will access the Fund either as individuals or groups. The Fund is believed to be one of the concrete measures so far tested in a few countries to effectively tackle the rising unemployment among the young people. It is possible that countries which have not implemented the initiative can borrow a leaf from Kenya to create jobs for the young people.



Hon. Mohammed Kuti, The Minister of State for Youth Affairs Elucidates the concept of the Youth Enterprise Fund

## Ministerial Forum Directs Focus On The Millenium Development Goals

By Lorna Okatch and Argwings Owiti

The mental perception that young people are a problem and not an asset ought to change immediately if world governments hope to provide a lasting solution to employment problems bedeviling the youth.

Kenya's Minister for Youth Affairs, Mohammed Kuti says young men and women entering the world labour market over the next ten years should not be perceived as being a problem, rather they must be seen as the source of meaningful solutions to global problems.

In a speech heavily aligned to the United Nations Millennium Summit held in September 2000, Minister Kuti says governments must give increased focus to youth entrepreneurship, equal opportunities for men and women, enhancing youth employability and creating employment opportunities.

"For entrepreneurship to truly prosper, we need to generate the kind of policies that will stimulate robust growth in the private sector and prepare young people through education and training with the skills required in our rapidly changing economies," said Kenya's Minister.

He says the experience in many parts of the developing world

clearly show that many countries have limited growth in the formal economy while the informal economy continue to be a refuge for many of the young job seekers.

Minister Kuti notes there is need for a mutually reinforcing partnership in which we can all encourage and learn from each other and work together to meet our commitment for youth employment.

The UN Resolution on promoting youth employment of December 2002, encourages all UN member states to prepare national reviews and action plan on youth employment.

This summit provides a rare opportunity for ministers and key government officials from all corners of the globe to pick useful ideas that would go along way in helping beef up the national youth employment action plans.

The Ministerial Forum has been organized at the summit to provide an opportunity for ministers to think critically about common approaches to youth entrepreneurship.

Mr. Kuti made the remarks during his opening speech at the Ministerial Forum held on the third day of the youth conference at KICC

# Innovative Market Place – Youthful Entrepreneurs Impress Delegates

By **SERAPHINE KIAMBUTHI**

The chilly morning weather enveloped the 2nd day of the 3rd Global Youth Employment Summit (YES). But that did not dampen the spirit of the youth who were as vibrant as ever in showcasing their wares to the global delegates.

Various youth groups especially from the slums made booming business through the sales of curio artifacts, beaded dresses and other unique wares.

“This is an eye opener to young people who engage in dirty and corrupt businesses as way of living,” Said 20- year-old, Christopher Areoo a former street boy who was rescued from the street life through a government rehabilitation programme in 2003.

‘I now live a decent life since I joined Kayole Youth Group in 2004 after the rehabilitation which was a turning point in my life. We engage in money generating projects such as artwork and dressmaking among others.’

The Minister of state for Youth Affairs , Dr Mohammed Kuti, together with his permanent secretary Major Kinuthia Murugu took the Iraq Deputy Prime Minister Dr Salam Al- Zobaai, for a tour to the free market stalls.

“I’m impressed to see young people making use of their talents and creativity to earn a healthy living” remarked Dr Salam.

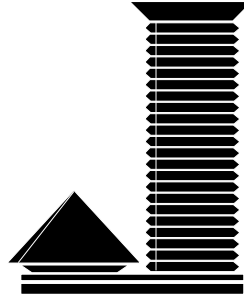
“The government is aware of financial constraints which is a major challenge facing the youth groups and young entrepreneurs” said Dr.Kuti the Minister of State for Youth Affairs. He added the problem will be solved through the youth kitty set aside in 2006/2007 financial year.

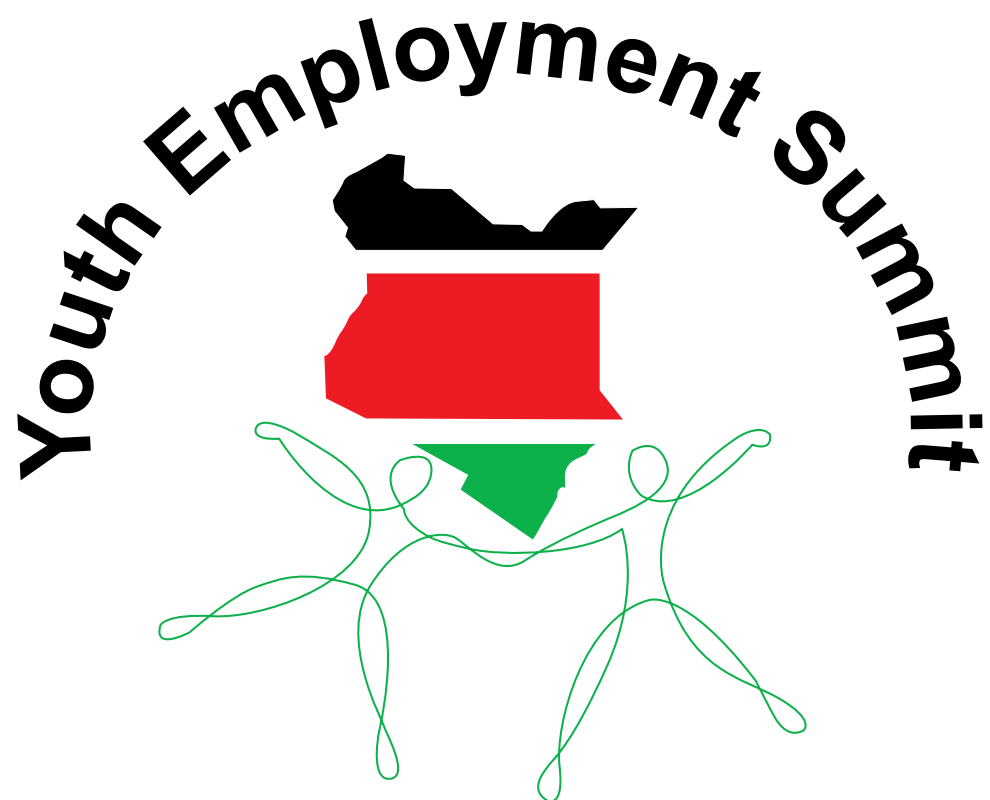
Kenol / Kobil , Equity and Barclays banks are among the co-operate organizations who have come up with bursary projects to assists the poor but bright students in high schools and form four leavers. The government has urged the private sector together with NGOs and other companies to support this noble course.



*Delegates tour the innovative market place at the Youth Employment Summit.*

## The YES 2006 Campaign Pictorial





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