

# IMPACT REPORT



2024

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# FOREWORD

**2024 was a wonder-filled year for Young Africa: we grew and expanded, improved and strengthened our work.**

The need has risen too, with the growing youth population and increase in un(der)employment. We reached 25% more young people than ever before; we started working in two new countries, Angola and Nigeria, and laid the groundwork for South Africa.

We are proud of our results: the number of graduates that are at work after their training touches a steady 70%. Our integrated approach empowers our young people with confidence, knowledge and purpose.

Our strive to greenovate and digitalise is well on its way. We learnt that building an online vocational school is as hard a job as constructing a physical one, but we will launch the e-learning platform this year.

We shared our model with new partners and educated 65 life skills trainers, to spread the powerful life skills programme further. That, and international speaking invitations, at UN side events, SADC and AU platforms, show that our experience and expertise in vocational education are appreciated. We are very grateful to the new financing partnership that we signed up in 2024.

The real witnessing of our impact comes from the stories of our youths. Their heart-touching transformation is, in the end, all that matters.

Read and enjoy their stories in this report, and on our brand-new website.

**DORIEN BEURSKENS**  
CEO Young Africa International



# REACH IN 2024

*EVERY YOUNG LIFE WE TOUCH, IS A STEP TOWARDS A MORE  
PROSPEROUS AFRICA*



5,790

Students enrolled  
for integral TVET

26,019

Total reach in  
2024 of all YA  
programmes

1,115

Young people  
enrolled in academic  
coaching classes

4,577

Young people  
graduating through  
dissemination  
partners

65

Life skills teachers  
trained

**346,253**

**Total lives touched  
to date**

# RESULTS IN 2024

RESULTS FROM THE POST GRADUATE SURVEY HELD IN  
MOZAMBIQUE, ZIMBABWE AND ZAMBIA



69,4%

Of the graduates confirmed being economically active

99,2%

Of graduates are able to set personal goals and pursue them

98,5%

Of the economically active graduates are now economically independent

98.6%

Of the graduates feel free to discuss issues around SRHR

98.4%

Of graduates can stand up and speak about issues affecting them

98.2%

Of the graduates feel more confident about their future

# PARTNERS IN 2024

*OUR PARTNERSHIPS CREATE SUSTAINABLE IMPACT FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST*



## **2024 was a remarkable year, filled with dynamic and transformative partnerships.**

We started operations in two new countries, strengthening our possibilities to empower Youth. We increased our operational capacity of Federation members through deepened collaborations, ensuring that more young people benefit and have access to integral vocational training. We advanced our commitment to greening our operations and empowering more young people to become an important element in the green transition within their countries. At the same time, we took a significant leap in Young Africa's digital transformation, enhancing how we support youth.

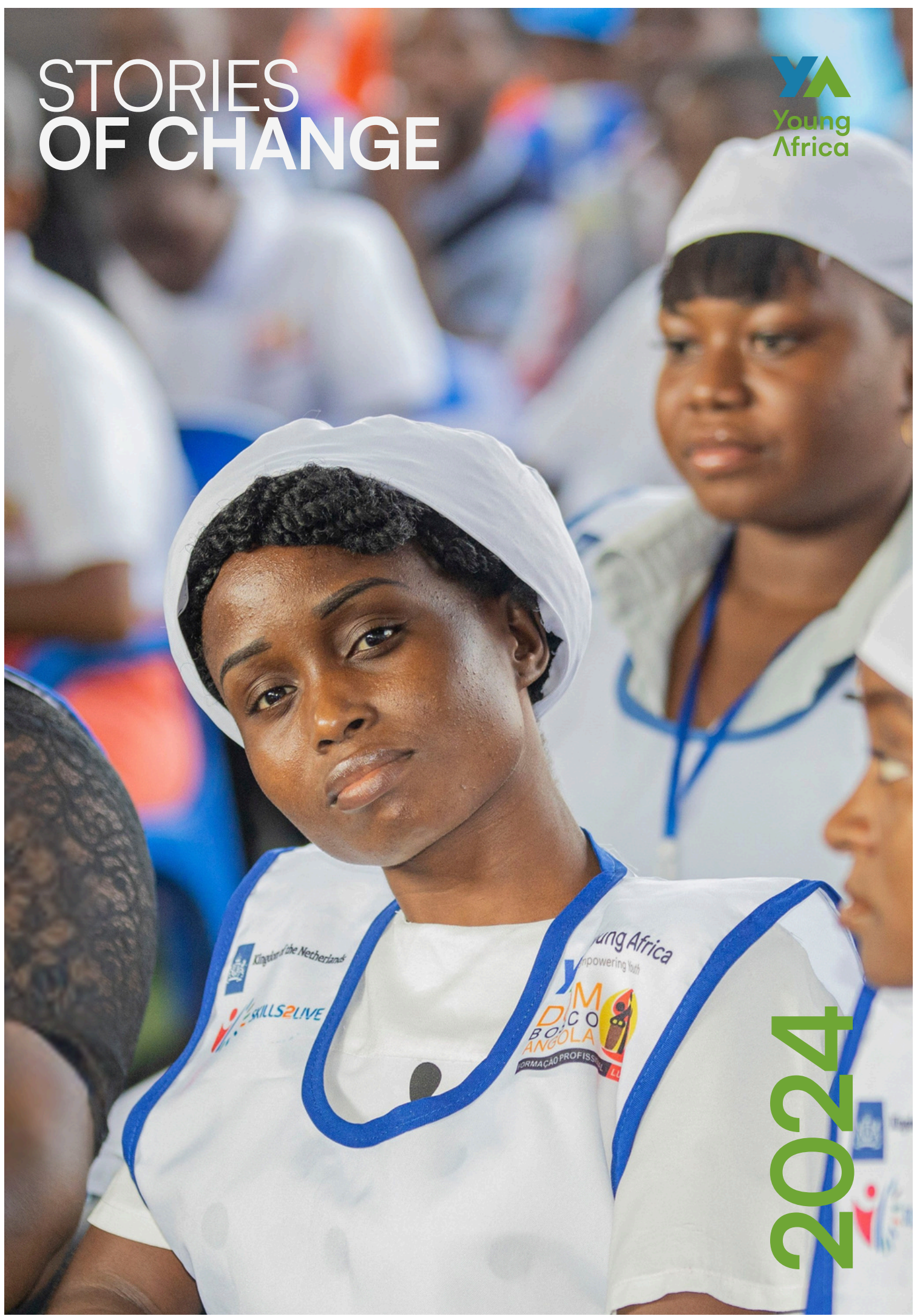
Whether our partnership began in 2024 or has flourished over time, we are profoundly grateful for every organization that shares our vision.

With immense appreciation, we acknowledge the invaluable support of our funding partners in 2024, listed below in alphabetical order:

- EU Erasmus+ programme
- Irish Aid in partnership with SERVE
- Kerry Stichting
- Leopold Bachman Foundation
- Mastercard Foundation
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Nationale Postcode Loterij
- Oak Foundation
- Puma Energy Foundation
- Sint Antonius Stichting
- Stichting Familiefonds Wierda-Baas

Together, we are shaping a future where young people across Sub-Saharan Africa have the skills, opportunities, and confidence to improve their lives and for those generations to come.

# STORIES OF CHANGE



2024

# YA ZAMBIA

**“You can do it, believe in yourself. Thanks to Skills2Live for giving me the opportunity to become a chef.”**

A 25-year-old from Lusaka, Zambia, Blessings has endured more than most. After losing her mother during childbirth, she was taken in by her mother’s best friend. However, by the time she reached seventh grade, her guardian also passed away. Blessings found herself moving from one home to another, facing physical and emotional abuse, including gender-based violence.

Yet, even in the face of such adversity, Blessings’ entrepreneurial spirit shone brightly. She tried various small businesses to make ends meet. Her turning point came when a kind soul introduced her to Skills2Live Zambia. Forced to choose between continuing her education and staying with her guardians, she bravely chose to pursue her dreams.

Through Skills2Live, Blessings not only learned the art of cooking but also how to stand up for herself and not let her past define her. Today, she earns enough to sustain herself and fuel her ambitions. Her dream? To own a restaurant someday.

Blessings’ story is one of resilience, courage, and hope. It proves that skills make the difference.



LUSAKA ZAMBIA



# YA MOZAMBIQUE

“When I heard about the opportunity for vocational training in electricity, I signed up and was eager to attend.”



Teodora Geraldo, a young woman from the community of Mpaca, had always dreamed of graduating. However, financial constraints, limited opportunities, and the challenge of becoming a mother at a young age prevented her from achieving that goal. When she learned about a vocational training opportunity in electricity, she eagerly signed up, determined to attend.

The course provided her with comprehensive training in electrical installation and solar equipment assembly.



MPACA MOZAMBIQUE

Her commitment and dedication did not go unnoticed, and she became one of the top graduates in her class. Following graduation, she was among the first to secure a paid internship at NAC Electricidades, a company based in the district of Mocimboa da Praia. Her skills and dedication quickly impressed her employer, leading to a transfer offer to support the opening of new company branches in the Mueda district.

Today, she not only earns a stable income but also mentors new trainees, sharing her knowledge and encouraging others to pursue their dreams.

# YA ZIMBABWE

**“I never thought I would make it as a single mother. Here I am now, a proud young woman running my own business and earning a meaningful income.”**



Ashley Gwatida, aged 32, trained with Young Africa Zimbabwe (YAZ) in 2021 under the Mobile Training Model, made possible through the partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Previously, she struggled with the responsibilities of single motherhood without a steady income and was unable to adequately provide for her family.

Three months after her training, she received additional support from Young Africa in the form of start-up kits, which boosted the group's business, allowing them to generate approximately \$300 USD monthly.



MASHAVA ZIMBABWE

Ashley recently opened a second salon at Great Zimbabwe University, demonstrating her drive for business diversification and expansion. However, she later closed it due to high rental costs.

Despite this setback, she continues to serve a niche market of university clients who visit her at the Balmain Business Centre. On average, Ashley earns between \$450 and \$500 USD monthly through hairdressing services.

Above all, she is now able to pay her child's school fees and has even purchased a car. She feels confident, empowered, and optimistic about her future.

# YA ANGOLA

**“Having skills is so important for young people to grow. I’m very grateful to Young Africa for this opportunity.”**

At just 21, Edvaldo Luciano Mijalque from Kazenga, Luanda had never had the chance to gain work experience or pursue any training. Growing up with limited means, opportunities always felt out of reach. When he enrolled in the Catering course at Don Bosco, adapting to the structured training schedule was tough. But his determination to build a future kept him going. For three months, he immersed himself in learning—not just about cooking but also about the business side of catering.

Today, Edvaldo is not just a student; he is a young entrepreneur. By baking and selling cakes, he now earns enough to cover his household expenses. But his journey doesn’t stop here—he dreams of becoming a chef. With the right skills, young people can turn their dreams into reality.

With the right skills, young people can turn their dreams into reality.



LUANDA **ANGOLA**

# TARGET 2026

*OUR FOCUS ON EQUIPPING YOUTHS WITH THE SKILLS FOR LIFE AND WORK REMAINS STRONG AS ALWAYS*



**Youth unemployment is a problem that is growing in urgency. This is especially true for Africa, where half of its population of 1.3 billion people is below the age of 25 years.**

We have a bold ambition for 2026. To have reached 200,000 youths by the end of 2026:

70,000 students through TVET and 130,000 youths through community outreach.

This would bring the total of youths empowered through Young Africa to half a million.

We also aim to grow the Young Africa Federation to four new countries. Firstly to Angola, which was launched in 2024 in partnership with existing TVET providers. Expansion to Nigeria also started in 2024 and we will set up office in 2025. Nigeria is the largest economy in Africa and has the largest population in Africa.

Before 2026, we want to include Ghana and South Africa as well. The latter three countries offer us the scope to implement and test our unique models in large scale economies, besides contributing holistically to much-needed skills development.

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