

IMPACT REPORT 2025



Young Africa
Empowering Youth

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FOREWORD

Africa's trajectory is the defining socio-economic story of our generation. As the continent's population surpassed 1.5 billion in 2025, we are witnessing the emergence of the largest youth workforce in history, with 70% of sub-Saharan Africa under the age of 30. By 2030, African youth is expected to comprise 42% of the world's young people.

It is evident that the decisions we make today about education and economic inclusion will determine whether this generation will become an engine for prosperity or a driver of inequality.

At Young Africa, we believe that a world of equality and shared wealth, in which the power of young people is channelled to transform the world around them, is achievable. We contribute to this mission through our integrated ecosystem approach that moves beyond traditional vocational training to deliver holistic personal development paired with technical competencies, digital fluency and life skills.

We are proud to share the progress we've made together within the Young Africa Federation in the year 2025:

- 44,230 lives impacted across 6 countries
- 122 Life Skills teachers trained that will empower thousands of youth in the coming years

What distinguishes Young Africa is our commitment to sustainable, locally-led development. Our franchise business model, endorsed by UNESCO-UNEVOC, ensures each centre operates as a viable enterprise, fostering self-reliance rather than dependency. We equip young people to meet current labour market demands, since 2025 also online, while fostering the entrepreneurial mindset required to create opportunities for themselves.

This report offers a short insight into the achievements of the year 2025 and provides personal stories of resilience and ambition. We invite you to see what we see: the abundance of talent, drive, hope and untapped potential wishing to be empowered across the continent to build their own futures.

Christian M. Schäfer, Partnership & Innovation Manager

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN 2025

In 2025, Young Africa widened the circle of dignity and opportunity for thousands of youth.

Across the federation, enrollment in TVET programmes reached 7,202 students across Angola, Mozambique, Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe: A significant 24% increase from 2024.

A major driver of this success was the full-scale implementation of the Youth Employability Booster project in Nigeria, in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation. This expansion into five states saw the “Women in Business” component achieve a fourteen-fold increase in enrollment. This period also marked a digital milestone with the November launch of the Young Africa e-learning platform, which successfully registered 745 learners by the end of the reporting period, breaking geographical barriers to quality education.

Young Africa convened its inaugural TVET Conference in Zimbabwe in October 2025. This collaborative effort saw a diverse assembly of 117 stakeholders, from four UN agencies and two government ministries in attendance.

Across the federation, the organisation transitioned green strategy into visible practice: In Zimbabwe, the Chitungwiza Centre commissioned a 20m³ biogas digester and a 5KVA solar system to model sustainable energy management; A partnership with a private waste-management firm in Angola resulted in specialised environmental training and the planting of 150 trees. These milestones prove that youth empowerment is most effective when it is practical, adaptive and deeply rooted in the green realities of the future.



Youth Employability Booster Project launch in Nigeria.



TVET Conference in October, attracting 117 participants.

OUR REACH IN 2025

 7,202

Students enrolled
for Integral TVET



44,230

Total reach in 2025 of all
YA programmes



4,285

Total Young people trained
by our partners replicating
YA models



122

Life skills teachers
trained



851

Young people
enrolled in academic
coaching classes



390,483

Total lives touched to date



812

Young people
trained on the
E-Learning Platform

chers

RESULTS 2025

75.9% of 2024 graduates are economically active
(employed, self-employed or in a paid internship)

63% of the economically active graduates are now
financially independent

99.7% of graduates are able to set personal goals and
pursue them

98.4% of graduates feel free to discuss issues around
SRHR

97.7% of graduates can stand up and speak about issues
affecting them

96.8% of graduates feel more confident about their
future

Results from 2025 Post Graduate Survey





YA *NIGERIA*

YA *ANGOLA*

STORIES OF CHANGE FROM ACROSS THE FEDERATION



YA MOZAMBIQUE



YA ZAMBIA

YA ZIMBABWE



YA ZIMBABWE

TRISH CHIBONDO, 22

At 22, Trish Chibondo transformed her future through the Young Africa Skills for Youth Resilience Programme. Transitioning from being unskilled and unemployed to a focused entrepreneur, she utilised a hairdressing course and a start-up tool kit to launch her own salon.

By investing in a generator to combat power cuts and expanding her service range, Trish turned a lack of opportunity into a thriving, reliable business that provides her with both financial stability and a renewed sense of dignity.

Today, Trish serves as a Crafts Master, mentoring eight students and passing on the skills that changed her life. Her impact has created a ripple effect: her former trainees are now securing employment and launching their own enterprises.

Trish's business allows her to support her household and mother. Her story is a powerful testament to how targeted skills training can empower an individual to become a pillar of growth and inspiration for their entire community.



YA ZAMBIA PURITY DIMBWA, 21

At 21, Purity Dimbwa from John Howard refused to let financial barriers define her future. After her parents were unable to afford her schooling, she was inspired by the success of her peers to enroll in the Food Production course through Skills2Live Zambia.

Beyond professional culinary and food safety techniques, the programme equipped her with vital life skills and health education through the Wellness Centre, fostering a sense of self-worth that reshaped her character and confidence.

Today, Purity is gainfully employed at Nando's, where her monthly income provides financial independence and the means to support her family. Her transition from uncertainty to a stable career has transformed her into a vocal advocate for vocational training, encouraging other young women to "*choose purpose.*"

With a professional certificate and a clear career path, Purity now dreams of opening her own restaurant to create jobs and serve as a beacon of hope for her community.



YA ANGOLA

INÁCIO SIMÃO, 25

Orphaned at a young age and once caught in a cycle of gangs and procrastination, 25-year-old Inácio Simão found his turning point at the Centro de Formação Profissional Dom Bosco. By enrolling in a refrigeration and air conditioning course, he replaced a lack of direction with technical discipline and life skills.

Inácio didn't just learn to repair AC units; he learned to overcome the habit of delaying his future, transitioning from a young man to a top-tier student eager to create his own opportunities.

Today, Inácio is a proud entrepreneur and father who uses his earnings to pay for his sisters' school fees and support his grandmother. The shift to a purposeful career was solidified by his first paycheck, which allowed him to provide an honest meal for his family. He is now earning a steady income and frequently hires friends to assist him on larger jobs.

Inácio credits Young Africa with rescuing him from a path of uncertainty and shaping him into a responsible, self-reliant provider for his community.



YA MOZAMBIQUE

JOSÉ MATEUS, 27

Before his vocational training, 27-year-old José Mateus supported his grandmother and four siblings by selling mobile airtime on the streets. Facing financial instability and an uncertain future, he seized the opportunity to enroll in a Culinary Arts course through a scholarship programme.

José's dedication and discipline during his studies led to a successful internship at Mr. Frango's restaurant, marking the end of his time in the informal economy and the beginning of a professional career in the kitchen.

Today, José has risen to the position of Sous Chef, earning a stable monthly salary, supplemented by independent weekend catering projects. This financial transformation allows him to provide essential support for his entire family while restoring his personal sense of dignity.

Looking ahead, José aims to launch his own business and become a mentor for disadvantaged youth and those with special needs, proving that technical skills are a powerful engine for social inclusion and community growth.



YA NIGERIA

AKINTOLA ELIZABETH, 22

Inspired by her sister's artistry but limited by the high costs of private beauty schools in Lagos, 22-year-old Akintola Elizabeth turned her passion into a profession through the Youth Employability Booster programme.

Despite no prior experience, the three-month intensive course provided her with a foundation in professional hygiene, client communication, and advanced makeup techniques. With hands-on guidance, technical discipline, she transformed into a skilled technician ready for the competitive beauty industry.

Following her training and a successful industrial internship, Elizabeth is now gainfully employed and actively building her professional portfolio through real-world client assignments. As one of 460 graduates empowered by Young Africa Nigeria, she is currently balancing her workplace responsibilities with independent freelance jobs.

Her journey from potential to progress proves that vocational support empowers young women with the independence and self-belief to thrive.



TARGET 2026

A Year of Goals

The year 2026 marks the conclusion of our 3-year Strategic Plan for 2024-2026. During this period, we aim to empower 180,000 youths, culminating in a remarkable total of half a million lives transformed by Young Africa.

This total encompasses both those directly impacted by YA International and those reached through YA Federation members.



I. TRAIN YOUTHS AND EXPAND OUR REACH



II. ENHANCE OUR IMPACT



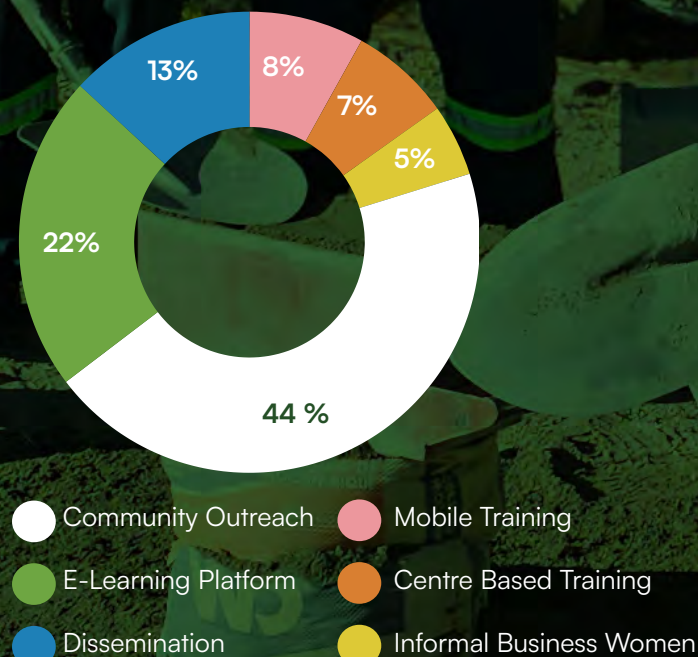
III. STRENGTHEN THE ORGANISATION

Progress and Challenges Ahead

As a Federation, we have made significant progress in enhancing the quality and effectiveness of our youth empowerment programmes. The strength and scale of the YA Federation have grown considerably.

Looking ahead, our primary challenge is to secure funding within the changed landscape of international solidarity. Although the budget for 2026 is ambitious, core costs are secured and risks to the financial position of the organisation are minimised.

120,000 youths empowered, through the following interventions in percentages:



Our Focus for the Coming Year

In the year to come, we are dedicated to achieving our ambitious target of impacting 500,000 youths while maintaining the quality of our interventions that our youths, our future, deserve.

Lives impacted to date, and the gap to half a million by YA International & Federation members:





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