



Empowering young people for
African Renaissance

MISSION

To contribute towards the spiritual, physical, intellectual, economic and socio-political well-being of young people and marginalized groups through empowerment, community development, and promotion of sustainable development.

PILLARS

FIRST QUARTER
NEWSLETTER

YMCA Newsletter

**Empowering Young People
for the African Renaissance**



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ZIMBABWE NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF YOUNG
MEN'S CHRISTIAN
ASSOCIATION

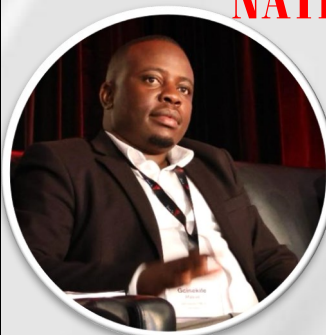
SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ABOUT THE YMCA
- GOLD YOUTH
- BUILDING STRONGER
COMMUNITIES ONE
STEP AT A TIME
- CLIMATE GAMES
- ENHANCED
ENTREPRENUERSHIP
AND ENTERPRISE
PROJECT
- THE ECONOMIC &
ENTREPRENUERSHIP
PROGRAM (TEEP)
- EMPOWERING
YOUNG PEOPLE
THROUGH
EDUCATION AND
RECREATION

YMCA Newsletter

FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY'S MESSAGE



Dear YMCA Family and friends

As we reflect on the strides we've made this quarter, I'm filled with gratitude and pride for the work we continue to do together. Our mission to empower young people and build thriving communities remains as urgent and vital as ever. I want to thank each one of you, our staff, volunteers, partners, and most importantly, our youth for driving this vision forward with unwavering commitment.

A key highlight this quarter was our Climate Games activation in Gweru and Bulawayo. These innovative and energetic events brought young people together to learn, compete, and collaborate on climate action. By combining education and engagement, we are nurturing a new generation of environmentally conscious leaders ready to protect our planet. The creativity and passion we witnessed in these cities reaffirm our belief that climate advocacy must start with youth.

We also saw incredible progress in our economic empowerment efforts. Through the Enhanced Entrepreneurship Project, young entrepreneurs received seed funding to start or grow their businesses. The repayment rates and success stories speak volumes about the capacity of our youth when given the tools to succeed.

Meanwhile, our "Power Space" dialogues provided vital platforms for young people to speak openly about mental health, unemployment, drug abuse, and their role in shaping public policy. These conversations are not just important they are also transformative.

As we look ahead, our goals remain ambitious: to scale these initiatives, deepen our impact, and continue advocating for policies that support the dreams and rights of young Zimbabweans.

Let's keep the momentum alive. Together, we are shaping a YMCA that listens, responds, and leads with purpose.

In unity and service,

Gcinekile Masiye

Chief Executive Officer/National General Secretary

"Yes you can and yes you will"



OUR TEAM



WHO WE ARE

YMCA stands for Young Men's Christian Association and is a private voluntary charitable organization registered with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (W032/69). The YMCA is a worldwide volunteer movement that empowers young people to work towards the betterment of communities in mind, body and spirit. It has been in existence since 1844 and now in 122 countries including Zimbabwe.

YMCA's are united internationally through the World Alliance of YMCA's and regionally by the Africa Alliance of YMCAs and within Zimbabwe through the Zimbabwe National Council of YMCA.

MISSION

To contribute towards the spiritual, physical, intellectual, economic and socio-political wellbeing of young people and marginalized groups in the community through empowerment programs and promotion of sustainable development.

Empowering young people for the African Renaissance

VISION

VALUES

Transparency and Accountability, Integrity, Justice, Volunteerism, Respect & Inclusiveness



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MABELREIGN

HARARE

TEL: +263 242 611950

Our Branches

Harare

Bulawayo

Chegutu

Gweru

Kadoma

Tanda

Gold Youth Pre-Implementation Training



Introduction

A 4-day pre-implementation training was conducted from April 14th to 17th, 2025, aimed at equipping junior and senior facilitators as well as site coordinators with the necessary skills and knowledge for effective program implementation. The training covered various aspects, including the Gold Youth methodology, roles of peer educators, program planning, and management practices.

Key Takeaways

1. **Gold Youth Methodology:** Participants were introduced to the Gold Plan methodology, its principles, approach, and expected outcomes.
2. **Roles of Peer Educators:** The importance of peer educators in community education and their positive influence on peers was emphasized.
3. **Program Planning:** Discussions focused on core beliefs, creating an enabling environment, and providing instructions for activities.
4. **Management Practices:** Participants learned

about effective leadership, mentorship, and management of peers and facilitator interns.

5. **Inclusivity and Disability Strategy:** The Gold Youth Disability Strategy was presented, focusing on inclusivity and adapting the program for youth with disabilities.
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** The importance of tracking progress and assessing program impact was emphasized.

Training Outcomes

The training aimed to achieve several outcomes, including:

1. **Social Behavior Change:** Participants learned about promoting self-development, gender relationships, SRHR, leadership, and community action.
2. **Job Creation and Employability:** Discussions focused on employment and employability, and how to achieve these outcomes.
3. **Educational Outcomes:** Participants learned about educational strategies and program integration.

“BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES ONE STEP AT A TIME.”



Have you ever thought how social problems erupt in the community? Some would say idleness, poverty, unemployment, social, isolation, social media influence. All these factors do count. The major questions still rise, Who is being affected by these problems and who is there to put an end to these societal problems? After having been told stories of despair and apathy, the Young Men's Christian Association Zimbabwe (YMCA) stands as a beacon of hope and resilience reviving lives hence our vision and motto: Empowering young people for the African renaissance.

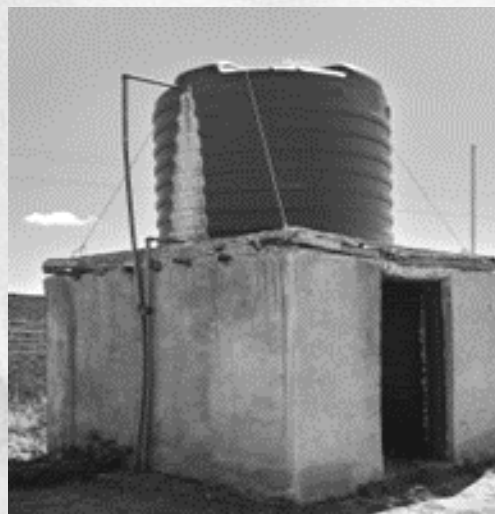
A REALITY

From current research, questionnaire reviews have been to our concern that, the more drugs have been preached in schools, the more students indulge in the act. This is similar to Albert Bandura's social learning theory. During this research it has been a concern that some drugs are erupting from basic home-made commodities. It has been up to organizations like YMCA to address these challenges bringing about sustainable solutions.



ADDRESSING HEALTH DISPARITIES THROUGH COMMUNITY LED MONITORING

Young Men's Christian Association Kadoma Zimbabwe has participated in some of the most sustainable and youth-led initiatives, including the community-led monitoring (CLM) which was mainly focusing on the health and well-being based on the SDG 3. This initiative had a positive impact on the society as it changed countless lives of the citizens in Kadoma. The CLM focused on providing healthcare services like mobile health stations that provided contraceptives, PreP and PEP. These helped those who were HIV infected, as CLM was flexible not only during week days but also during weekends. In the face of these challenges, YMCA's efforts helped to save lives.



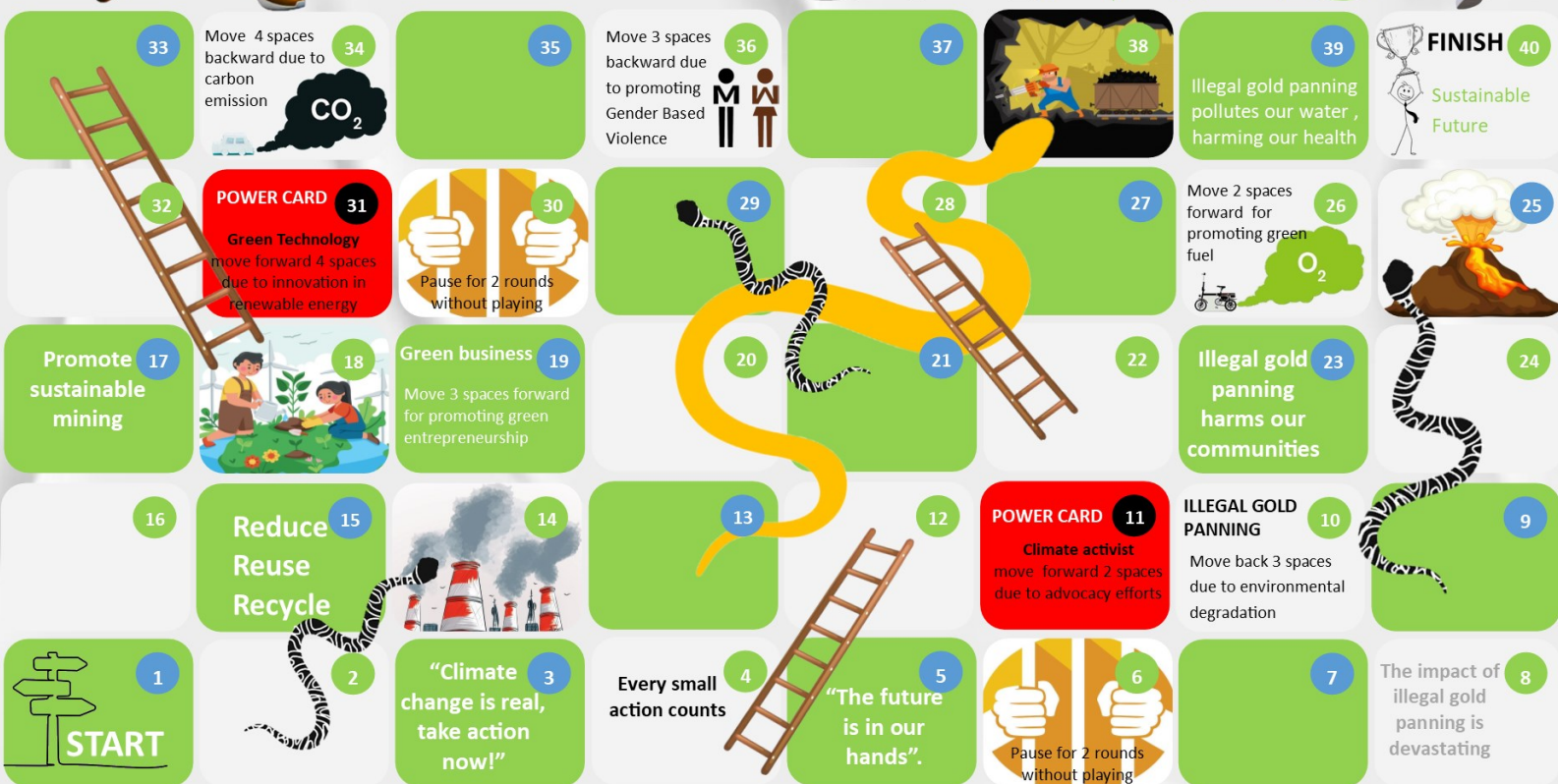
KADOMA YMCA YOUTH DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS

Several youth-led initiatives aimed to reach out to the marginalized youths through the provision of health care information and the promotion of healthy life styles. These activities included, Sexual Reproductive Health Advocacy around high schools in Rimuka and peer education on guidance and counselling. Community awareness outreach to the disadvantaged youths. The Young Men's Christian Association's programs objectively support, build and focus on transformative participation of young people in Kadoma. This equips them with necessary skills for development and survival, including facilitation, passive community-led activities like poultry and farming. These help keep the youth off the streets saving lives from drug and substance abuse.

The Borehole project was one of the successful community initiatives by YMCA. Currently the borehole services quite a large number of the surrounding residents. The YMCA's philanthropic legacy inspired by (John 17: 21) which states that "...So that all may be one". These binding words have made the organization's commitment to the community's emancipation and development provide steadfast support. This builds community ownership, love justice and global citizenship for all people.

Young Men's Christian Association, (YMCA) Kadoma has made significant contributions and participation in the propulsion of the sustainable developmental goals, the state vision, "NYIKA INOVAKWA NEVENE VAYO". The organization's engagement with community members and youths, positively affects the residents of Kadoma, through transformative participation programs and community-led initiatives.





3. **Illegal mining:** Move back 3 spaces due to environmental degradation & community harm.

4. **Sustainable practices:** Move forward 4 spaces due to adoption of eco-friendly habits.
5. **Power cards:** Players can use power cards to overcome challenges or take advantage of opportunities, such as:
6. **Climate activist:** Move forward 2 spaces due to advocacy efforts.
7. **Green technology:** Move forward 3 spaces due to innovation in renewable energy.
8. **Penalties:** Players may incur penalties for actions that harm the environment, such as:
9. **Carbon footprint:** Move back 2 spaces due to high carbon emissions.



A New Frontier in Environmental Education

The prevalence of games in modern culture presents a unique opportunity to raise awareness about global challenges, including climate change. According to a Pew Research Center report (2019), almost all adults have played video games at some point, and while most games are designed for entertainment, a growing number aim to drive positive change.

Empowering Young People through Climate Games

The YMCA Bulawayo and Gweru branch are piloting the Climate Games initiative, targeting 1200 young people. The game, designed during the Climate Games bootcamp in Nairobi, Kenya, initially it focused on young people in conflict with the law with a particular bias for those involved in illegal gold mining, who significantly impact the environment.

A Conducive Environment for Climate-Friendly Businesses

The ultimate goal of the game is to create an environment that promotes climate-friendly businesses. By leveraging on the power of games the project seeks to empower young people

to take action against climate change.

The Future of Climate Games

As stakeholders recognize the potential of games in addressing climate change, we can expect to see innovative and engaging climate games that inspire positive change. By harnessing the power of gamification, we can educate and empower a new generation of environmental leaders.



CLIMATE GAMES



IMPACT INSIGHTS



From Zero to Hero: Trish's Remarkable Transformation

Against all odds, Trish has turned her life around with a thriving poultry business, thanks to the generous support of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

With no initial capital, she received 25 chickens and feed from the organization an opportunity that ignited her entrepreneurial journey.

Through hard work and determination, she sustained her business and expanded her flock to 50 chickens, overcoming challenges that once seemed insurmountable.

Trish first learned about the Enhanced Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Project (EEEP) through a friend on WhatsApp.

She never looked back after seizing the opportunity and has since

reaped immense benefits.

"I have benefited greatly from the project, growing my flock from 25 to 50 chickens since I started last year," she said. "I'm now on my fifth batch."

Her choice of poultry farming was no accident it had always been a passion.

"I chose poultry because I've always loved it. With commitment and dedication, I believe it offers great returns," she said.

Beyond providing nutrition and food for her community in Senga, Gweru, Trish's chickens also contribute to sustainable farming, as locals use the droppings for manure.

"I didn't have the funds to start this business, but with the YMCA's support, I have become self-sustainable and can generate income for my family and community," she added.



The Economic & Entrepreneurship Educational Program

"Empowering young minds".



The Economic, Entrepreneurship Educational Program aimed to capacitate young children in Grade 5 and 6 with essential skills and knowledge in economic and entrepreneurship. As part of the program, YMCA Bulawayo conducted a 4-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on The Economic, Entrepreneurship and Education Program (TEEEP) held from the 24th to 27th of March 2025. A

total of 9 facilitators were trained. The workshop aimed to equip the facilitators with the necessary skills and knowledge to conduct sessions and facilitate the program effectively for the continuation implementation of the TEEEP project unit I.



S2C Ambassador Mr Dylan Khanye sharing his insights on the dangers of drugs and substance abuse with the young minds of our future at Riverdale Academy

"Preventing Substance Abuse through Community Engagement".

Lets keep the conversation going and inspire a healthier, brighter tomorrow.

#S2C

#DRUGAWARENESS

from subject





“Empowering Young People through Education and Recreation”.

The Harare Branch has launched a community reading space, providing a safe and engaging environment for young people and the community to learn and grow. This initiative aims to prevent substance abuse among youth by offering:

Free Resources

- Internet access
- Computer facilities

Interactive Spaces

- Outdoor discussion areas for collaborative learning

Support Services

- Free counseling sessions to promote mental well-being

Recreational Activities

- Indoor games to foster socialization and healthy leisure

By providing these resources, the YMCA creates a positive outlet for young people, promoting learning, socialization, and community engagement while helping to deter substance abuse

“A safe haven for young people”



I L V YMCA

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR
THE AFRICAN RENAISSANCE

JOIN THE MOVEMENT



UPCOMING EVENTS

AFRICA DAY.....25 MAY 2025

DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD.....16 JUNE 2025

YMCA DAY.....06 JUNE 2025

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES.....15 MAY 2025

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL DAY.....05 JUNE 2025

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE AFRICAN RENAISSANCE



YMCA

ZIMBABWE

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