

YOUTH ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA

2nd Floor Eureka house,
Room 2 and 3 Freedom way
P.O.Box 31852
Lusaka

E-mail: yazinfor@yahoo.com, yazworkcamps@gmail.com

ORGANIZATION PROFILE
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Introduction

The Youth Association of Zambia (YAZ) is a Non-Profit making organization whose major objective is to improve the living standards of young people and children in Zambia. It was formed and registered in 1994 with the registrar of Societies and National Youth Development Council. It has strengthened its networking base in five provinces of Zambia namely Lusaka, Central, North Western, Eastern, and Southern provinces.

Mission Statement

To create a better future for young people and work towards a society where they are empowered to develop their potential and creativity as dynamic and responsible members of their respective societies

Vision

To have an empowered, motivated and responsible youth who is productive towards sustainable human development and who shall take full responsibility of their own action

Objective Of The Organization

- To contribute in the mitigation of HIV/AIDS and related diseases among sexually active young people and the community through advocating for best practices on Reproductive Health and health environments.
- To lobby and advocate for gender equality and equal opportunities between men and women in order to attain sustainable development through active participation, empowerment programmes and dialogue.
- To provide and facilitate capacity development in youth enterprise, internship, cultural exchanges and coaching approaches for young people.
- To protect the economic and the civic rights of young people through the establishment of transparent, democratic and participatory decision- making structures and process at all levels of development.
- To lobby and advocate for the protection of the natural environment for the present and future generation locally, regionally and globally.
- To create an open space for young people to contribute to their social, economical, psychological and developmental issues through work camps, workshops, study visit and exchange programmes that are interactive, motivating, empowering and creative.
- To support and promote volunteer culture in young people for maximization of both human and material resources.
- To establish and strengthen partnerships and networks with institutions whose agenda are in line with young people's advancement programmes.

TARGET GROUP

Children 6 to 17 years and the youths 18 to 35 years

Programs

1. Youth Exchange Programmes:

The Youth Exchange programme is an initiative of YAZ aimed at exposing young people to international work and cultural understanding thereby bringing about skills, peace and understanding among young people of different countries. The link for the first youth exchange programme was facilitated by the National Youth Development Council (NYDC) in 1997. Since that time YAZ has widened its exchange base with different countries such as Sweden, Germany, Britain, Netherlands and Ireland among others. Youths who have participated in these exchanges are also trained in Project management and Monitoring and Evaluation. Our partner in Sweden is Center For International Youth Exchange Programme. The programme is funded by SIDA Sweden

2. International Study and Work camps:

YAZ is the only organizations in Zambia Implementing Youth Study and Work camps. Work camps are a unique way of transferring skills and knowledge to young people through hands on work. Young people both Zambians and internationals, volunteer their time and energy to work on a community project. YAZ has always partnered with the community and government at different levels in implementing the work camps. There is a youth study part of the camp which involves discussions on topical issues affecting the youth or particular community. This also includes excursions to Zambia's important historical sites. The other part of the work camps is purely practical and this involves working on projects such as building, painting or any other project approved by the community or other stakeholders. Since 2003 YAZ has implemented 60 work camps in different provinces of Zambia with more than 120 volunteers who have participated. The work camps are funded partly by the community in form of free labor and donation of materials and on the other hand international volunteers' participation fee that goes towards materials for the work camps.

3. Long and Medium Term Volunteer Placement

This programme is aimed at engaging young people in providing a service to needy communities and organizations where there is a discrepancy. Young people share skills and knowledge in their area of expertise according to the needs of a particular organization. The Young people volunteers for one to six months and lives in either host family or rented apartment in the community. On the other hand young people also gain some useful skills from the communication and organization during the duration of the placement.

The programme does not require funding but a person who wants to volunteer takes care of their welfare. However, international volunteers pay participation fee to YAZ that is used for their orientation and administrative costs.

4. Building Local Democracy among the Youth

Building local Democracy is one programme that is aimed at shaping the leadership quality and enhancing the democratic principle among young people in order for them to participate effectively in decision making at different levels. The implementation started in 2008. The programme looks at the youth influence in relevant public institutions that has a bearing on youth development. We believe that democracy should first begin with young people themselves. Through this programme young people are equipped with leadership skills among others. In this way we expect that young people will be more responsible and will contribute in finding solution to their problems as well as contributing to poverty reduction.

Funding for this programme is funded by MS Zambia

5. Join in Circuit(JIC) on AIDS,Love and Sexuality

The Join in Circuit (JIC) on AIDS, Love and Sexuality is a mobile and interactive learning instrument aimed at getting the HIV/AIDS messages across using a structured communication technique.

- This project used an instrument with a mobile learning system of 6 stations on core topics of HIV/AIDS and reproductive health. Join In Circuit expands existing knowledge on HIV/AIDS, reproductive health issues and complements methods of health education in Zambia.
- It used an Interactive and competitive games that were combined with interviews, team learning and role-plays.
- Every station is handled by Experienced and trained facilitator who guide through each station.
- YAZ monitored and evaluated quality and impact, based on international standards.

GOAL: To cultivate a responsible behavior in young people and build a community that will be able to respond to adequately to Challenges of HIV/AIDS.

The project had the following objective:

To provide reproductive health education to young people on the dangers of HIV and AIDS

To create a platform for young people to share the comparative advantage and best practices in the implementation of HIV/AIDS activities

To provide reproductive health education and counseling to the youths both in and out of school, and higher leaning institutions and on the street.

To foster communication on HIV/AIDS and reproductive health at community level.

Key Messages

The messages that are discussed are:

- Inform yourself
- Protect yourself and others
- Show solidarity with people living with HIV/AIDS.

Target Groups

Pupils, teachers, students, farm workers and health personnel.

Maximum 90 participants pass in groups in approximately 1 -2hours, in 6 learning stations.

15-20 participants are sensitised at each station in 15 minutes.

Learning Stations

The approach has the following stations.

1 Ways of transmission

2 Sexually Transmitted Infections

3 Condom use

4 Body language

7 Positive living

6 Protection

German Development Services provides support for Join-In Circuit by providing allowances to the facilitators.