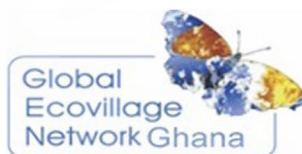


SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



11 EXAMPLES OF YOUTH-LED REGENERATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



GLOBAL
ECOVILLAGE
NETWORK

In 2015, 17 Sustainable Development Goals were agreed by 193 UN Member States to shape the global agenda for sustainable development. Achieving these goals will require an unprecedented mobilisation of the energy and skills of young people, and a recognition of their significant role in promoting them.

To us in the Global Ecovillage Network, it is clear that while many young people have a high level of enthusiasm for living more sustainable and community based lifestyles, they are finding it hard to reconcile these aspirations with their need to make a living. In 2017, young people from GEN networks in Cameroon, Denmark, Ghana and Scotland came together to find solutions to that dilemma. Through our common project - Youth Social Innovation for Resilient Communities, we worked for two years to increase our own and GEN's capacity to strengthen young people's skills in green social innovation and entrepreneurship.

The project, Youth Social Innovation for Resilient Communities, was generously funded by the EU Erasmus+ programme, and involved the Global Ecovillage Network in the UK, Better World Cameroon, Global Ecovillage Network & NextGEN Ghana, and Andelstanken in Denmark.

This report contains brief presentations of a selection of the youth-led green social enterprises developed through our project. With it, we want to showcase the creativity and innovative approach that youth are taking in solving the multiple challenges of sustainable development. Our aim was also to document business solutions in easily accessible ways,

encouraging their spread and replication throughout our global network of regenerative communities.

In our selection of initiatives to work with in our project and include in this report, we had 7 main criteria:

1. Alignment to one (or more) of the 17 SDGs
2. Youth-led and illustrating youth contribution to sustainable development
3. Clear target audience, objectives and structure
4. Positive environmental impact
5. Positive Social impact
6. Financial viability
7. Scalability or replicability

We dream of a world where more young people have the skills, resources and support to develop creative ways to follow their passion, make a living and care for their communities and planet at the same time. We hope this report can inspire you to take steps in that direction.

Best regards,

The international Youth Social Innovation for Resilient Communities team

For more information about the curriculum we based our activities on, see www.sircle-project.eu. All solutions and the entire curriculum can also be found at www.ecovillage.org/solutions

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SkillStudy

Organisation: SkillStudy

Founder: Javnyuy Joybert

Year established: 2017

Place of Establishment:

Buea, Cameroon

Place(s) of Operation:

Buea, Cameroon

Budget: /

Contact: infos@celbmdafrica.org

Find out more at: www.skillstudy.org
<https://web.facebook.com/skillstudy/>

THE CHALLENGE

Recent trends show that by 2030, over half of the world's young people – 825 million – will lack the basic skills needed for employment. Surveys on New Skills at Work by JP Morgan Chase & Co show that the ways in which business engage in workforce development and the ambitions and aspirations of young people are mismatched.

THE RESULTS

Four years ago, the Founder of SkillStudy founded The Centre for Entrepreneurship Leadership & Business Development (CELBMD) Africa to provide world class professional skills to Africans in the areas of employability, workplace efficiency, enterprise development, leadership and technology. CELBMD Africa trained and equipped 8750+ people with relevant skills, reaching 26 African countries. Now we want to leverage web and mobile app technology to do more - faster and more accurately.

THE SOLUTION

Quality skills learning for everyone everywhere.

SkillStudy is reinventing skills development in Africa. We leverage web and mobile technology to create an African society where skilled people are commonly found. We get relevant soft skills in the hands of young Africans through their mobile devices. SkillStudy targets both job seekers to update their skills as well as working young professionals to become competitive by developing skills. Skills become accessible and affordable to millions of students, job seekers, and young professionals across Africa including high school graduates who can't afford a university education, job seekers who need employable skills to compete in the job market, young professionals who need workplace efficiency skills, and entrepreneurs who need enterprise development skills to scale their businesses.

EdTech startup focuses on transforming and increasing access to education in Africa by empowering Africans everywhere with relevant skills. SkillStudy brings together learners, skills experts and lecturers in skills development together to share educational lessons without the limitations of distance, only requiring internet access. With SkillStudy, African young people can reach their full potential, better adapt to the future workforce, become dynamic and flexible with the rapid pace of technological change. Learners access the e-learning portal through the app which can be downloaded to any mobile device and through the web platform.





Muutos For Kids

Organisation: Muutos For Kids

Founder: Wirsiy John Bongkiyii,
Javnyuy Joybert

Year established: 2015

Place of Establishment:
Kumbo, Cameroon

Place(s) of Operation:
Kumbo, Cameroon

Budget: /

Contact: darkoherman@gmail.com

Find out more at:
www.muutosforkids.com

THE CHALLENGE

Poor parenting and little or no access to early childhood education affects children's futures, the wider economy, and contributes to increased government spending on crime and job creation.

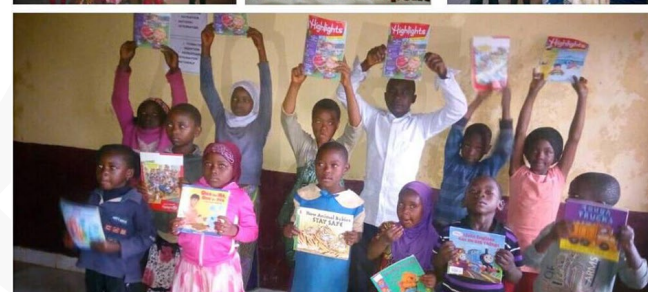
THE RESULTS

Muutos for Kids have empowered 5000 kids with literacy skills like reading and writing and have empowered over 8000 parents on proper parenting and child management programs across Cameroon. Since its inception, Muutos for Kids has partnered with CAMMICS Micro Credit Project and Mr Javnyuy Joybert. We have trained all the female beneficiaries of the project on child welfare and proper parenting as well as over 750 women in four villages on proper parenting, child welfare management and vocational skills.

THE SOLUTION

Proper parenting workshops and courses, general parenting consultancy, childcare courses, reading and writing lessons and basic mathematics that gives children the best academic start in life.

We deliver services to parents, caretakers, children, teachers and everyone who interacts with children. We strive for a community where every child's potential is fully developed and all parents perform their full parenting duties.





NASLA

(NETWORK FOR AGRIC AND SUSTAINABLE LEADERS FOR AFRICA)

Organisation: NASLA

Project Name:
EASTE (Eat and Save the Earth)

Founder: Tendong Denis Ngweh and Teghen Colins Tah, (Co founded by Manka Melvis)

Year established: 2016

Place of Establishment: Mbengwi, Bamenda, North-west Region-Cameroon, Africa

Place of Operation: Cameroon

Budget: /

Contact: denistendong@yahoo.com

THE CHALLENGE

Food insecurity, unemployment, environmental degradation and poverty threaten the security and social well being of many youth in Africa. Most youth see agriculture as a choice for the less educated rather than a sustainable opportunity. Irrespective of the enormous efforts by the Cameroon government to overcome this by increasing financial and technical support to farmers, most youth continue to live in conditions of hunger, poverty and unemployment as they depend highly on white collar jobs. Those who join the farming sector are forced to use adverse agricultural techniques such as chemical fertilizers, increasing negative effects on environment and health.

THE SOLUTION

Inspire, train and engage young people into sustainable agriculture through workshops, capacity building, and youth exchange networks and hands-on practice with organic farming techniques.

Our three year vision is to create the next generation of 100 youth motivated and engaged into sustainable agriculture through an “organic farm incubation center”.

OUR OBJECTIVES ARE TO PROVIDE:

1. Food security and healthy communities by re-introducing and promoting organic farming through production and distribution of organic nursery plants to 50 youth farmers.
2. Reduced unemployment by establishing four low-cost agricultural systems (which include processing of, Cassava, Ginger, Pepper and Garlics) that add value to farms and create more opportunities for youth.
3. Poverty alleviation by developing youth to apply entrepreneurship and innovation to achieve social impact and employ people with limited skill sets who would otherwise face challenges in the mainstream labor market.

EASTE will create more support opportunities for youth, young farmers and the community and create trust and partnerships for regular transformation of agriculture activities throughout the country. Through distributing organic plants to local youth farmers, we will raise awareness and promote efforts will to protect the environment

THE RESULTS

We are still at an early stage and will measure our impact using the following metrics:

- Number of youths integrated into agriculture through the NASLA Network under this project
- Number of job openings created in the “Organic farm incubation Center”
- Feedback / evaluation reports from participants of awareness and capacity building workshops
- Increase of quality and quantity of organic farm produce in the local market by 10%
- Our impact will be strengthened through resourceful international and local support partners





WEMAKIT farm

Organisation: WEMAKIT farm

Founder: Chenwi Bertrand and Nde Lovert

Year established: 2016

Place of Establishment: Bamenda

Place(s) of Operation: Bamenda, North west and South west Regions

Budget: /

Contact: info@wemakit.org

Find out more at: www.wemakit.org
<https://m.facebook.com/wemakitreal/?ref=bookmarks>

THE CHALLENGE

In Cameroon, Agriculture continues to play a key role in development. As the global population is expected to increase to 8.4 billion by 2030, we will witness increased strain on how this population will be fed. The responsibility of ensuring food security for this population must be shared together with the young people. In Sub-Saharan Africa, where agriculture is the main driver of economic development, youth involvement has been lacking for the past years. Many have tried to solve this problem but are greatly limited by capital, technical know-how and other social setbacks.

THE RESULTS

WEMAKIT has harnessed the power of youth in agriculture, causing a shift in mindset of some communities towards sustainable agriculture. We have also sponsored young people's education and other environmentally friendly agricultural projects. WEMAKIT uses the following metrics of measurements:

- 1) Food production data: crop and harvest count to see if harvest matches with the crop population.
- 2) Social data: Geographic participation based on the various tasks; Programme reach (number of communities and persons who turn out for our trainings and presentations.); The mood and level of interaction amongst our workers and how satisfied they are with our services.
- 3) Economic data: mainly market sales. The main beneficiaries are the youth who also double as our customers by the services they render on our farms and projects.

THE SOLUTION

Make land available for youth to cultivate, providing an opportunity for them to nurture their passion for agriculture.

WEMAKIT farm owns land in the western region of Cameroon which is cultivated by youth. We provide capital and farm inputs while encouraging youth trainees to challenge themselves to learn the skills and sustainable farming techniques. All WEMAKIT farm's youth trainees are paid salaries and given support towards individual project work, including education opportunities to learn new farming techniques, explore the agricultural field and develop into incumbents in the sector. We value research, timeliness and maximising income, taking calculated risks towards every cultivation. We choose crops carefully, considering the period, weather and market analysis. We are bent on efficiency and profiting from our harvests. Therefore, our decisions are carefully documented before implementation. WEMAKIT farm does a year-round cultivation (6-month rainy season and 6-month dry season) which guarantees availability of fresh farm produce throughout the year.

We intend to shift the mindsets of the youth we work with, opening doors for employment and personal growth while boosting the agricultural sector in Cameroon. We take pride in contributing to the fight against climate change and we hope that our practice of climate-smart agriculture will positively influence other places. We believe that our work will go a long way to fight poverty and food insecurity, as well as hunger, malnutrition, climate change and other socio-economic setbacks in Cameroon.





TeHA African Kitchen

Organisation: TeHA African Kitchen

Founder: Tebi Honourine Azoh

Year established: 2017

Place of Establishment: Bamenda

Place(s) of Operation: Bamenda

Budget: /

Contact: tebi.hono@gmail.com

Find out more at:
www.facebook.com/tehaafricankitchen

THE RESULTS

TeHA African Kitchen Restaurant had existed for six months with several achievements. Through its long term catering service, we have served the Better World Ecovillage Design Education (EDE) in August 2017, making maximum earnings. The business provided catering to SHUMAS Cameroon, offering delicious African meals to 217 participants within four days in the community of Bafut, Bali and Batibo at the cost of 1500frs per person. The business has also created employment to two young girls as a cook and sales person. We have created solid customer relationships with NGOs, university institutions, other private institutions, individuals and ministries.



THE CHALLENGE

Unemployment

THE SOLUTION

Create jobs for young girls through cooking and catering services.

We deliver healthy and delicious African meals to NGOs, public health workers and individuals during training workshops and events as well as good customer care.

We aim to have a social impact by creating many businesses in the Bamenda community which will employ many other young girls. We also aim to inspire youth towards venturing into entrepreneurship for self employment.

This will be measured by the number of social business created in the next 3 years and the number of young persons/ employees that will take up the challenge in starting and running their own dream businesses through the inspiration of our successes.

In addition, the restaurant project promotes the African Culture through its delicious meals.





SUOG-RCs

(Scaling -Up Organic Gardening for Resilient Communities)

Organisation: Scaling-Up organic Gardening for Resilient Communities

Brand: Mankiss Organics

Founder: Melvis Manka

Year established: 2017

Place of Establishment:
Ghana permaculture institute

Place(s) of Operation: Bafut sub-division, North-West, Cameroon

Budget: /

Contact: melvismanka254@yahoo.com

Find out more at: suog254@gmail.com

THE CHALLENGE

Today we live in a world of competition, which is equally the case in the agricultural sector. With an ever growing population, we need to put sustainable agricultural techniques in place that can feed and provide the population with a source of healthy products without using chemical fertilizers which are detrimental to human and environmental health.

THE RESULTS

We have been able to produce organic juices from carrots, melon and parsley for local /home consumption and the feedback has been very satisfactory. We will be working in collaboration with other existing green initiatives to widen our scope and contextually with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Cameroon.

THE SOLUTION

Deliver pure organic juices made of carrots, melons, parsley etc from our garden initiative. These will be packaged in powdered form and delivered as tea. This project is still in its initial stages.

This initiative will contribute to reducing carbon emissions. It also will provide young people with jobs and a creative mindset which will come from their learning process. The community at large will benefit through their involvement in networks of people, exposure to skills and knowledge, consultancy services, as well as the fresh produce. We have purchased land and irrigated three hectares with an ongoing plant nursery.

Organic juices will be produced on-site using juice extracting machines. No sugars or additives will be added, just the natural juice in its purest form. This will reduce consumption of other drinks which are less healthy yet heavily consumed.

An estimated cost of a greenhouse is yet to be done. We believe the project will contribute to the local economy through the community's participation in organic farming as part of a supportive cooperative where farmers will gain resources without exploitation.





Njangi

Organisation: Njangi

Founder: Herman Koh & Malcolm Koh

Year established: 2017

Place of Establishment: Bamenda

Place of Operation: Bamenda,
North-West region, Cameroon

Budget: /

Contact: darkoherman@gmail.com

Find out more at: Facebook:
www.facebook.com/Njangitrends/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/njangi_trends/

THE CHALLENGE

Cultural and economic issues among African youth.

We have modeled our business following the UN sustainable development goals 8 “Decent Work and Economic Growth” and 12 “Responsible Consumption and Production.” We measure the number of people affected either by jobs created, increase wellbeing, or by economic growth/spending power of people within a given community.

THE SOLUTION

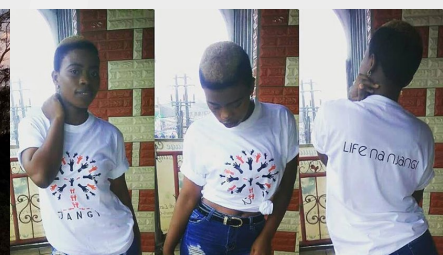
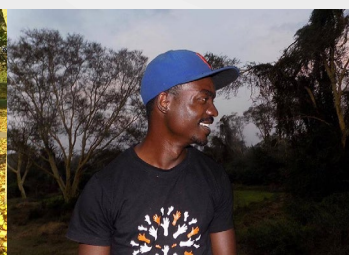
Provide African fashion and design to youth and young professionals.

We create designs by employing local techniques to create innovative and trendy fashion designs from local and recycled materials, marketing them online to an increasingly mobile technology-oriented customer base.

Key activities entail design, manufacturing and marketing of clothes via various platforms. This includes buying fabric, cutting and designing fabric, sewing pieces together and finally applying finishing touches for the completion of the clothes. We strive to bring about a change in the minds of young people, inviting them to think differently about identity, specifically in relation to dressing and attire. We explore what it means to be African in the 21st century and how to successfully enable young Africans to embrace and embody the meaning behind that identity. We also aim to bring about a change in thinking and understanding around the concept of success and the skills and knowledge needed to attain success. In this manner, we can effectively stir up interest and eventually growth within less obvious fields of work, for young people.

THE RESULTS

After successfully prototyping and sampling a few designs, we discovered a huge interest for African fashion designs which have started to reemerge among African youth. We concluded that there is indeed a shift occurring within the minds of young Africans which has raised awareness and interest for African fashion and design. The stage is being set for an emerging fashion industry, characterised by more job opportunities for young African designers.





Fra Grums til Gourmet

Organisation: Fra Grums til Gourmet

Founder: Esben Johannesen
Vestergård Pedersen

Year established: 2016

Place of Establishment: Aarhus

Place(s) of Operation: Aarhus

Budget: /

Contact: lasse_m_r@hotmail.com

Find out more at: www.facebook.com/fragrumstilgourmet

THE CHALLENGE

To decrease the amount of waste primarily from the coffee industry and prevent resources from being sent to incineration. This in turn decreases the amount of pollution that has a global effect on our biosphere.

Secondly, topsoil has diminished significantly within the last 100 years due to our shift to massive farming facilities and monoculture, which depletes the earth from nutrients without bringing anything back for the soil to replenish.

THE RESULTS

We have turned many kilos of coffee grounds into mushrooms and given more value to a waste product, which can then be used in other processes after the mushrooms have been harvested. In our first 1.5 years, we have taken tons of coffee grounds from festivals, events, restaurants and cafés with a focus on sustainability to bring more attention to the value of things we throw away. This has educated many people that have seen our facilities, participated in our workshops and that followed our activities. Our waste has been used as compost in local gardens, meaning everything is circular and reused.

Value proposition: We are delivering environmentally friendly organic mushrooms to restaurants and event makers in Aarhus. We show the community how to use a waste product and therefore inspire them to think and act in a more sustainable way by recycling or using waste materials as an input resource to a different process. We have taken this knowledge to teach other people, mostly in Ghana and Cameroon, how to grow mushrooms on local waste resources in their area.

THE SOLUTION

Reuse and upcycle coffee grounds and inoculate it with mycelium from oyster mushrooms.

This root-like network can absorb nutrients from the coffee grounds and use them to produce oyster mushrooms that have both medical and culinary benefits. This creates a valuable food source that can be grown in all areas of the world, creating a local and sustainable alternative to meat or as an umami tasting ingredient. Mushrooms can be grown on nearly all wood-like materials (even on invasive species like water hyacinth that diminishes biodiversity). In addition, mushrooms have high levels of protein and vitamin A and B as well as immune boosting abilities. This can significantly limit HIV and tuberculosis growth and symptoms.

After this substrate has yielded mushrooms between 2 and 4 times, the mycelium turns the coffee grounds into easily available nutrients for livestock, crickets or worms. This process of composting turns the substrate into topsoil for gardens or in commercial farming. By integrating mushroom growing into existing farms, waste materials can be turned into nutrient-rich mushrooms and composted to build soil for the next generations of crops and people to prevent synthetic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers from destroying our biodiversity and bodies.





ECOBAG GHANA

Organisation: ECOBAG GHANA

Founder: Charles Katere and Paul Yeboah

Year established: 2016

Place of Establishment:
Techiman and Wa

Place(s) of Operation: Brong Ahafo and Upper West Region of Ghana

Budget: /

Contact: ckatere99@gmail.com

Find out more at:
www.facebook.com/EcobagGhana/

THE CHALLENGE

Improper disposal of plastic waste in Ghana; Waste choked the drains causing frequent flooding; Increased risk of environmental diseases.



THE RESULTS

We have created an awareness and sensitization in over 50 communities in the Upper West Region and Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana. Moreover, we have trained 10 people on recycling of plastic waste into useful resources. In addition, resources such as school bags, laptops bags, dustbins and tarpaulins have been donated to communities, as well as sales from the useful resources we produce.

Beneficiaries have been community leaders/stakeholders, Ghana Education Service, farmers groups, NGO's, Parents Teachers Association, Governmental Agencies (DEC's, MP's etc).

Our environmental impact: reduction of burned plastic waste in the communities, including reduced carbon dioxide emissions, as well as a clean environment free from plastic waste.

The impact will be measured by the amount of plastic waste recycled, the community practice of separating plastic waste and the quantity of plastic waste purchased from the community. In addition, the impact will be measured before and after the project on the quantity of plastic waste in the communities.

THE SOLUTION

Educate the public about proper disposal of waste in their communities by receiving our product. We also market sanitation to the general public through our products.

The main beneficiaries are students, women, officers benefits from our products (school bags, laptops bags, dustbins and tarpaulins).

The process of producing an EcoBag includes: purchase plastic waste from the community, sort, wash and sun dry it, stitch the plastic waste into raincoats, bags, dustbins, umbrellas and tarpaulin. Members within the communities are employed in this process.

We reach our customers through radio programs, workshops, market places and door to door delivery.





NetRepair IvS

Responsible Production and Consumption

Organisation: NetRepair

Founders: Jorge Ramírez & Morten Risom

Year established: 2017

Place of Establishment: Copenhagen

Place/s of Operation: Copenhagen

Contact:
info@netrepair.dk or +45 52648075

Find out more:
Website: www.netrepair.dk/
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NetRepair-DK-252808942026018>

THE SOLUTION

NetRepair is a simple and intelligent platform that connects consumers with broken stuff to skilled people who can earn money repairing them. The platform is a web page and a mobile application that enable easy access and overview of local repairers.

The value proposition is divided in two: Local skilled craftsmen who earn money and citizens who can easily find someone to repair their broken items.

NetRepair takes a commission fee for every transaction made via the platform. Currently we are using Facebook and persons who have a great network and influence on their local community.

THE CHALLENGE

NetRepair seeks to minimize the amount of waste and to empower citizens to save and earn money by repairing.

Environmentally, we decrease both the demand of new goods as well as the amount of goods consumers throw away. We thereby limit resource extraction and emissions related to production and transportation. Socially, we enable local craftsmen to earn money by creating livelihoods for those currently unemployed.

To measure both, we use data from our platform to see how many transactions are made over a given period.

THE RESULTS

We have created a prototype and made a market assessment in Copenhagen, where we are currently testing the concept in collaboration with the municipality. The current resources we have are IT Developer and UX-designer, however, we need capital to promote and grow NetRepair further.



NETREPAIR

