



PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

Proposal title: **YOUTH EMPOWERMNET INITIATIVE**

Duration of proposed project: **12 months**

Grant Requested: **GH¢223,200**

Name of implementing organization: **The YEAN**

Date established: **2016**

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1. INTRODUCTION

There were 1.2 billion youth aged 15-24 years globally in 2015, accounting for one out of every six people worldwide.

By 2030, the target date for the sustainable development goals, the number of youth is projected to have grown by 7 per cent, to nearly 1.3 billion. Youth can be a positive force for development when provided with the knowledge and opportunities they need to thrive. In particular, young people should acquire the education and skills needed to contribute in a productive economy, and they need access to a job market that can absorb them into its labour force. Among the greatest challenges facing many countries today are inadequate human capital investment and high unemployment rates among youth.

Some countries are struggling currently to educate and employ their young people, while also anticipating substantial growth in the number of youth. These countries will be doubly challenged in their efforts to assure universal high-quality education, productive employment and decent work for all.

This brief summarizes recent and future trends in the size of the youth population and describes the challenges facing countries in educating and employing their youth.

Definitions of youth have changed continuously in response to fluctuating political, economic and sociocultural circumstances. Young people in industrialized countries comprise a relatively smaller proportion of the total population because of generally lower birth rates and longer life expectancy. They comprise a social group that faces particular problems and uncertainties regarding its future, problems that relate in part to limited opportunities for appropriate employment. Many developing countries are also experiencing unprecedented rates of rural-urban migration by young people. The difficult circumstances that people experience in many developing countries are often even more difficult for young people because of limited opportunities for education and training, viable employment and health and social services, and because of a growing incidence of substance abuse and juvenile delinquency. Their imagination, ideals,

considerable energies and vision are essential for the continuing development of the societies in which they live.

Thus, there is special need for new impetus to be given to the design and implementation of youth policies and programmes at all levels. The ways in which the challenges and potentials of young people are addressed by policy will influence current social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations. In 1965, in resolution 2037 (XX), the General Assembly endorsed the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples.

From 1965 to 1975, both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council emphasized three basic themes in the field of youth: participation, development and peace.

Young people in all parts of the world, living in countries at different stages of development and in different socio-economic settings, aspire to full participation in the life of society.

Young people represent agents, beneficiaries and victims of major societal changes and are generally confronted by a paradox: to seek to be integrated into an existing order or to serve as a force to transform that order.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In today's world the youth is facing the most of hardships and lack of belongingness within the society. Youth in Ghana constitute a big chunk of the population, yet it remains the most subjugated and marginalized. The difficult circumstances that young people face because of limited opportunities for education and training, viable employment and health and social services, and because of a growing incidence of substance abuse and juvenile delinquency is deteriorating the chance of Ghana's quest for achieving the status of a developed Nation..

Their imagination, ideals, considerable energies and vision are essential for the continuing development of the societies in which they live.

The organization here is focusing on the most underprivileged youth residing in the rural areas and urban slums, surviving on meagre of resources and constantly seeking out a purpose for their life. The organization plans to work with the youth who never have been nurtured and reared in a way to develop into a productive generation, because of which the petty crimes in the community is constantly on rise. The delinquency amongst them is not detrimental for the youth only but the whole society is on the verge of eruption, as they had no means to devise a solution for the same.

The YEAN seeks to working with the youth for their development and inclusive growth and in continuation of that only it proposes to obtain the resources for the

Youth Empowerment Initiative, which has the potential of integrating the values of a good and productive citizen in youth, motivating them to lead a normal life by providing them a platform to develop and showcase their skills. The project proposes to select 50 most marginalized and vulnerable group of youth within the rural and urban slums in Ghana and develop them into a productive and empowerment citizen. The proposal will need resources amounting to

GH¢ 223,200.00 which taking into consideration the purpose it will serve for the society is a justified amount.

3. JUSTIFICATION OF PROJECT PORPOSAL

a) . STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Ghana's population has a youthful structure with the youth (defined officially as aged 15 –24 years) constituting about one out of every four of the population (Table 1). Over the past forty years, the number of the youth in the total population of Ghana has increased from 1.1 million in 1960 to 2.3 million in 1984, and to 3.5 million in 2000. The latter constitutes about 22.6 percent of the economically active population.

Table 1: Share of the Youth in the Economically Active Population of Ghana

Age Group (years)	1960	1970	1984	2000
Both Sexes				
15-19	11.4	9.5	10.7	9.1
20-24	15.2	14.5	16.0	13.5
Male				
15-19	10.0	9.1	10.0	9.2
20-24	14.5	13.6	14.8	12.7
Females				
15-19	13.5	10.1	11.3	9.0
20-24	16.2	15.7	17.1	14.3

Source: Computed from the 1960-2000 Censuses of Ghana.

The share of the youth in population is also reflected in a corresponding share of the youth in unemployment (Table 2). About 60 percent of the unemployed in Ghana can be found in the 15-24 years age group. This makes Ghana's youth unemployment rate one of the highest in the world

Table 2: Unemployed Population by Age and Sex in Ghana

Age Group	1960	1970	1984	2000
Both Sexes				
15-19	40.1	39.8	37.7	17.0
20-24	23.7	31.9	36.8	19.1
25-29	12.8	13.1	13.7	14.2
30-34	7.4	6.4	4.6	9.9
35-39	4.7	3.4	2.2	7.8
40-44	3.4	2.0	1.3	6.5
45-49	2.3	1.4	1.0	5.4
50-54	1.8	0.9	0.7	4.3
55-59	1.1	0.5	0.5	2.9
60-64	1.1	0.4	0.4	3.0
65+	1.6	0.6	1.1	9.8

Source: The 1960, 1970, 1984 and 2000 Population Censuses of Ghana, Ghana Statistical Service

The data further show that the proportion of the unemployed among the youth is higher for females than for males over the past forty years. In addition, data from both the Fourth Round of the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS-4) and the 2000 Ghana Population and Housing Census show that the youth unemployment is largely concentrated in the urban areas (Table 3). The data show that the youth unemployment rate was as high as 30.8 percent in Accra, compared to 11.5 percent in the rural areas and 23.5 percent in other urban areas.

Table 3: Youth Unemployment Rates by Sex, Locality of the Population

Sex	Urban			Rural	Ghana
	Accra	Other	All		
<u>Males</u>					
15-24	29.4	23.6	25.3	8.1	12.7
<u>Females</u>					
15-24	31.7	23.3	25.9	14.8	18.7
<u>Both sexes</u>					
15-24	30.8	23.5	25.6	11.5	15.9

Source Ghana Statistical Service. GLSS-4 1998/99

A number of factors account for the growing youth unemployment in Ghana. Historical evidence indicates that youth unemployment in Ghana is due to, on the one hand, a more than a threefold increase in the youthful population over the last forty years, and on the hand, failure of the economy to generate sufficient employment outlets.

Table 4: The Profile of Unemployed Youth in Ghana, 2001

Profiles	Male	Female	Total
Proportion of young persons who could be described as illiterate due to early drop out of school or not having been to school at all	20.8	23.2	21.6
Proportion of young persons who have acquired some skills from the technical and vocational institutions including apprenticeship training but need retraining to make them succeed in Ghana's changing labour market	6.6	3.5	4.7
Proportion of young persons who have completed various stages of formal education at the non-tertiary level, majority of whom are Junior Secondary School products	65.3	66.3	65.8
Proportion of young persons who have completed Senior Secondary School but are unable to continue their education or get formal employment because they are deficient in three critical subjects, namely English, mathematics and science.	2.3	5.2	4.7
Proportion of young persons who have graduated from the Universities and Polytechnics majority of whom are first time job seekers without the right work experience and are not therefore able to get work after Completing their national service.	1.6	0.6	1.2
Proportion of young persons who live, sleep and work on the streets and Others.	2.8	2.2	2.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sample Size	524,028	378,437	903,437

The lack of these provisions gave rise to severely delinquent youth who were suffering at the hands of the negligent community and government.

The marginalized people settled in the community (youth members) are facing a plethora of problems which are:

1. Continuing discrimination against young women and men and insufficient access for them to equal opportunities in employment and education;

2. **High levels of youth unemployment**, including long-term unemployment;
3. Increasing incidence of diseases, such as malaria, the human immunodeficiency virus and the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), and other threats to health, such as substance abuse and psychotropic substance addiction, smoking and alcoholism;
4. Inadequate opportunities for vocational education and training, especially for persons with disabilities;
5. Changes in the role of the family as a vehicle for shared responsibility and socialization of youth;
6. Lack of opportunity for young people to participate in the life of society and contribute to its development and well-being;
7. Prevalence of debilitating disease, hunger and malnutrition that engulfs the life of many young people;
8. Increasing difficulty for young people to receive family life education as a basis for forming healthy families that foster sharing of responsibilities; and
9. Continuing deterioration of the global environment resulting from unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in urban societies, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances;

B) PRIORITY NEEDS

After consulting with the community members and various other stakeholders the priority need of the youth is the inculcation of social values and norms of the society. Organization had several sessions with the community members to decide the reasons behind youth members of their community taking the illegal and non-productive way to leading their life. The elders lamented the lack of efforts and time given by them towards rearing their children, unaccepted social behaviour by community elders in presence of youth, easy availability of drugs, alcohol, opportunities for flesh trade and their negative socio-economic status etc.

C) THE PROPOSED APPROACH

The proposed approach decided mutually by implementing agency, community members and other stakeholders are:

- I.** Inculcation of social values in youth.
- II.** Exposure to developed and proper way of living in and outside the community.
- III.** De stigmatizing them in Police peripherals, for the maligned status of youth gives ample opportunity to police to be always suspicious of them.
- IV.** Providing vocational skills to youths in trades with established market demand.

D) THE IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION

“The YEAN is dedicatedly working towards empowering the youth in the rural areas and urban slums, through several measures such as vocational training, coaching, counselling and by several other measures. The organization has the expertise of relating with the youth and working towards their holistic empowerment with ample participation from all the stakeholders.

Organization has the distinctive know how of making youth participate in our programmes and avail all of our services.

4. BACKGROUND OF THE ORGANIZATION “THE YEAN”

a) Establishment

‘The YEAN’ is an all Ghana Character organization, dedicated to imparting knowledge, skills and awareness amongst the poorest strata of the society with emphasis on employment generation, looking after destitute, empowering women, water harvesting, preventing AIDS and other health hazards, drug de-addiction, witness protection and awareness about environment and hygiene. **YEAN** is a youth empowerment Advocacy Network that seeks to strengthen young peoples' engagements in socioeconomic development and governance processes. It seeks to create a common ground for youth to generate ideas on how to respond to the increasing challenges facing the youths. We sort to deepen efforts in research, training, civic engagement and advocacy in areas related to socioeconomic development and governance.

It has as its value preposition to empower the youth to play a cardinal role in nation building.

YEAN seeks to harness the necessary environment for information sharing and Networking through empowerment, capacity building, policy Advocacy and legislative effort.

b) Governance

The organization has a General Assembly consisting of founding members and other members who have joined the association after its establishment to oversee and deal with all policy issues. It has also a managing board of members to decide on major administrative matters and oversee major developments and guide its operations. There is a management committee consisting department heads and chaired by General Secretary to deal and execute day-to-day administrative and managerial matters.

The General Secretary, responsible to the Board of directors, is entrusted with the main task of overseeing and implementing decisions passed by the General Body and Board of Directors. He also manages the day-to-day activities and operations of the organization.

The organization has four major departments, namely Administration, Finance, Program and Public Relations departments, and each department has also three to five sections..

c) Vision, Mission and Objective of the Organization

Vision

To see a health, gender balanced, prosperous and productive society that lives in a conducive environment.

Mission

The organization envisions to provide the skill & knowledge to the under privilege Strata of the society so that they can recognize and use the resources around them for their holistic empowerment.

General Objective

To identify, tap and optimally harness the potential of the under-privileged classes of the society in such a way as to strike a judicious balance between their own quality of life as well as towards their meaningful contribution to the society/nation. And also:

1. To assist and/or run programs aimed at uplifting the involvement of the youth in governance through civic engagement programs, advocacy campaigns and social networking.
2. To contribute to efforts that focus on economically empowering the youth through skills capacity building and experiences to enable them competitively appreciate their environment.
3. To assist and/or run programs aimed at uplifting the welfare of the orphaned and vulnerable children in different parts of the country.
4. To equip the Youth with employability skills such as communication, presentation and leadership skills, customer care, time management and team work through a multitude of public dialogues, seminars, workshops and conferences conducted by the youth.
5. To strengthen networking and linkage between like-minded youth and other innovative stakeholders to assist them in impacting society.
6. To conduct youth mentorship programs through which the youth can share their ideas with a possibility of logistical assistance to help them realize their dreams.

D) ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION

LEARNING CENTER:

Learning Centre will be established for educating the children of the weaker sections belonging to the under Privileged class especially for school drop-out and child labour. It will have strength of 300 regular students and 10 staff. The children will be trained for 6 month to one year in the learning Centre and they will be admitted to the nearby Government and private sector.

ORGANIZING SHGs:

‘The YEAN’ undertakes special efforts to motivate people particularly from socioeconomically weaker sections and those living in slums, tribal, rural areas, for self-employment. The information regarding major role of women in economic empowerment of community will be disseminated to the people, which make formation of SHGs possible in highly marginalized areas.

. VOCATIONAL TRAINING:

The YEAN provides vocational training (cutting, tailoring and computer literacy) to the women and youth of the communities within our scope of operation

CAREER GUIDANCE:

“The YEAN’ regularly holds career guidance by experts from relevant fields in govt. school and community and makes special efforts to spend awareness for self-employment oriented vocational education and motivates youth as well as their parents to provide support to the youth in their efforts.

DRUG AWARENESS CAMP:

“The YEAN’ organizes camps in slum areas and locales inhabited by socially and financially disadvantaged strata not only for disseminating awareness about harmful effects of Drugs but also spread knowledge about methods for de-addiction.

. Legal Aid Camp:

‘The YEAN’ will organize legal aid camps within communities within our catchment area to make available legal aid particularly to women and other vulnerable people from the society

. Disability Camp:-

‘The YEAN’ not only spreads information and awareness among disabled/handicapped people about various beneficial schemes enunciated for them but it also makes concrete efforts to enable them to benefits from such schemes, financially and medically.

. Environment Camps:

‘The YEAN’ will organize camps in the community to generate awareness and motivation regarding environments, de- pollution, plantation of trees, cleanness etc. These camps will be fairly successful and make a tangible and lasting positive impact on the ecology of these areas.

Health check-up camps:

Organization in partnership with the Health sector will regularly organize health check-up camps in the communities and provide prescribed medicines for free of cost.

5. TARGET GROUP

a. Direct Target Group

The youth of community would be the direct target group. It will mainly involve the youths who are perceived to be as the burden and non-productive members for the society. The vulnerability of the youth will be judged by the extent of his relevance in the society as well as the interest shown by him/her towards the “Youth Empowerment Initiative” Project. The organization will select 100 most vulnerable youth members of the community from which it expects at least 50 members to complete the project successfully.

b. Intermediate Target Groups

It will include Teachers and retired teachers, Parents of youth, Employers of youth (if any), Local People’s representatives, Bureaucrats, Local opinion leaders, Police, Media Workers, Civil Society Organizations, Local community directly concerned with behaviour problems of youth.

6. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT

Logical framework

<u>GOAL</u>	<u>OUTCOMES</u>	<u>ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>OUTPUTS</u>	<u>TIME FRAME</u>	<u>RISKS</u>
<i>(The overall, long-term development goal towards which the project will contribute.)</i>	<i>(Immediate outcomes for the project.)</i>	<i>(Activities that will be implemented to reach each outcome.)</i>	<i>(The specific outputs that each activity will deliver.)</i>	<i>(When each activity will be implemented)</i>	<i>(The potential problems that must be overcome for each activity to finish on time.)</i>
<p>The project seeks to inculcate the social norms and values in delinquent youth group by developing A sense of Responsibility and good conduct</p>	<p>1). The developed sense of responsibility and volunteerism amongst the client group which will lead to partial reduction in petty</p>	<p>1.1, Develop a youth group through various measures, e.g. group work, screening of movies in demand as well as giving moralistic messages, making sports accessories available to</p>	<p>Formation of a close group ready to participate in welfare programmes of the</p>	<p>1st to 4th month</p>	<p>Irregularity of participation in programmes, waywardness and not finding the programme immediately useful for themselves.</p>

amongst them. It will work towards Enhancing the chance of employability as well	crimes, drug abuse and family violence in the area.	them.			
As promote self-employment and entrepreneurship amongst them.		1.2. Counselling of most aggressive and delinquent members of the group	Motivated and participative group member	1 st to 12 th month	Making some of them participate in counselling session will let them feel inferior from other members of the group.
			Youth group will have a developed sense of belongingness amongst themselves and	3 rd to 12 th month	

7. Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Periodic monitoring focuses on the day-to-day activities of the project. It uses clearly stated activity indicators in the plan for monthly, quarterly and annual targets to be accomplished. Monitoring activity includes measuring the physical performances, budgetary utilization, quality and quantity of work done, correlation of the work done with the set objectives and the set plans and timetables. The Center Director employed to run the center shall conduct the day-to-day monitoring activities of the project and report to the program manager of the organization. Project evaluation will be jointly held with all stakeholders including, donors, and community elders in the project area, beneficiaries, and relevant government counterparts every year before the starting of another budget year.

a. Indicators for evaluation

- I. Financial system, cost effectiveness and budget utilization
- II. Number of trainees who manage to generate income and self-supportive citizens
- III. Number of youths mobilized and sensitized on HIV/AIDS prevention and other health related issues.
- IV. Number of clients who visited center
- V. Number of youth employed after trained in our training center.
- VI. Amount of money generated by our organization through income generating activities to finance its projects
- VII. Reduction of criminal activities in the area

8. SUSTAINABILITY

The project “Youth Empowerment Initiative” is mutually agreed plan of implementing agency, community members and other stakeholders. The project is highly beneficial not only for the youth of the community but for the community as a whole. It envisages the development in the community which its inhabitants had been dreaming of since the time of their settlement there. The project has the capacity to turn the non- productive youth of the community into the responsible citizens who will work towards holistic development of himself as well as his society.

As the project is highly beneficial for the society its day to day needs will be taken care of by the community members and other stakeholders.

After 1 year of its completion, the project will be self-sufficient as the resource for its sustenance will be raised from the vocational training center and other sources.

9. THE TOTAL HUMAN RESOURCE REQUIREMENT FOR THE PROJECT:

- I. Project head (1) on full time basis.
- II. Volunteers (2) on full time basis.
- III. Counselor (2, health issues and psychological) on part time basis.
- IV. Resource person for training in the center (1) on part time basis.
- V. Resource person for providing academic coaching and remedial classes (3) part time basis.
- VI. Doctors for conducting health checkup camps (1) part time basis.
- VII. Computer instructor for successful operation of vocational training programme (1) on full time basis.
- VIII. Caretaker cum receptionist (1) on full time basis.

10. BUDGET

a) Recurring

S.No.	Line Items	Unit	Unit Cost in Year I GH¢	Total in GH¢
1	Project head	1	600	7,200.00
2	Counsellor (1,000/visit X bimonthly)	2	2,000	24,000.00
3	Resource persons for workshops, seminars and health camps	3	1,000.00	3,000.00
4	Teachers for remedial classes and preparation for exams	2	200	4,800.00
5	Computer expert	1	400	4,800
6	Receptionist	1	583.33	7,000
7	Rent for the building	1	6000	72,000
8	Communication and travel expenses	-	3000	36,000
9	Contingencies	-		10,000
10	Accounting and administration @ 1000 per month		1,000	12,000
11.	Volunteers	3	500 X 3 X 12months	18,000
12.	Total			166,400

b) None recurring

S.No.	Line Items			Unit	Unit Cost	Total
1.	projector			1	3,000.00	3000.00
2.	DVD Player			1	300.00	300.00
3.	Speake	rs		1	10,000.00	10,000.00
4.	Air conditioners			2	1,500.00	3,000
5.	Sports items (volleyball, carom, football, chess, dart board, etc)			5 set each	1,000.00	5,000.00
6.	Computers			10	700.00	7,000.00
7.	Water filter			2	800.00	1,600.00
8.	Computer chair and table set			11	1,000.00	11,000.00
9.	Reception table			1	2,000.00	2,000.00
10.	UPS Invertor			3	700.00	2,100.00
11.	Video game accessories			1	1,000.00	1,000.00
12.	Carpets			2	500.00	1,000.00
13.	Fans			4	700.00	2,800.00
14.	Books	and	teaching materials, IEC, leaflets etc	-	5,000.00	5,000.00
15.	Miscellaneous			-	2,000.00	2,000.00
17	Total					56,800

