



UN-HABITAT ONE STOP YOUTH CENTRE MODEL

ONE STOP
YOUTH
CENTRE

UN  **HABITAT**
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Kimisagara One Stop Youth Employment Centre,
Kigali, Rwanda © UN-Habitat

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Introduction

Urbanization is the engine that propels the world towards prosperity in the 21st century and youth are the engineers. Youth are society's most essential and dynamic human resource. There are more people under the age of 25 today than ever, totalling nearly three billion or almost half of the total global population; 1.3 billion of that total are between the age of 12 and 24. These youth live, by and large, in cities and towns; the cities of the developing world account for over 90% of the world's urban growth and youth account for a large percentage of those inhabitants. It is estimated that as many as 60% of all urban dwellers will be under the age of 18 by 2030.

One of the most important issues for youth is the lack of decent employment. Global youth unemployment rates are continuing to rise and have been exacerbated by the current economic crisis. Young people particularly those from slums

and informal settlements, have difficulties accessing jobs, essential resources and social services such as housing, education, health, and skills training. Young people require the best information and resources they can get when it comes to employment, health, crime prevention, governance, gender equality, rights and responsibilities.

UN-Habitat established its first and longest running One Stop Center in Nairobi, Kenya in 2003 with the support of the Nairobi City Council and the Dutch government. Following this success, in 2006 UN-Habitat's Youth Empowerment Programme expanded the One Stop programme across Africa, with the key centres being in Dar es Salaam, Kampala, Kigali and Nairobi. The agency also partnered with Starbucks to support youth centre development in post-conflict countries in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Palestine and Sierra Leone.

What is a One Stop Youth Centre Model?

The One Stop Youth Centre is a partnership between UN-Habitat and local governments, and utilizes an integrated approach to youth development by providing youth with safe spaces in urban settings where they can meet and access information and resources critical to youth-led development including peace building, research and policy development.

The Centres offer youth friendly services and contribute to their socio-economic development. The model recognizes that youth engagement and empowerment through training and capacity development is pertinent to addressing the challenges faced by young people such as employability. The centers provide skills training that contribute towards building a pool of skilled and employable young labour force. Some of the main areas of focus include programmes in arts and sports, employment generation, entrepreneurship, health services, and ICT. The main objectives of the centres are: To increase employment opportunities for youth through entrepreneurship and skills training linked to apprenticeships with local businesses and the housing industry;

- To encourage young people's active participation in issues of urban governance and urban policy development;
- To provide safe spaces for youth to access recreational activities and services and information on issues such as sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS awareness;
- To support cities to develop their capacities in the area of youth engagement through the development of youth policies and strategies;
- To instill volunteerism and support life skills,
- To support and address the needs of the young women and girls.

The model identifies young people as a major force for the development of a more sustainable world through effective and meaningful participation of youth in decision-making

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE STOP YOUTH CENTRES

- Youth Friendly Space; young people have input into the look and feel of the space itself.
- Involvement of Youth-Led Development Partners in all phases of the implementation process.
- A sense of ownership and responsibility amongst youth and stake-holders in the One Stop facility.
- Youth volunteers who assist in the operation of the Centre.
- Trained Information Workers and Youth Workers as Centre Staff and Management.
- Programming in areas relevant to urban youth including thematic areas such as Health, Governance, ICT, Entrepreneurship and Livelihoods and Environmental Sustainability

The One Stops and Youth-Led Development Principles: The Kampala Principles

In 2009 representatives from the four One Stops in Africa gathered in Kampala, Uganda to further develop the One Stop programme. From this meeting 5 principles on “youth-led development” were defined. Youth-led Development is a methodology utilized by UN-Habitat, and is now more broadly within the UN system, which places youth at the centre of their personal development and that of their community. YLD recognizes the inherent ability of youth to take leadership roles within their communities. The five principles lie at the heart of the One Stop Centres and UN-Habitat’s Youth Empowerment Programme.

The Kampala Principles:

1. Youth should define their own development, goals and objectives,
2. Youth should be given a social and physical space to participate in development and to be regularly consulted,
3. Adult mentorship and peer-to-peer mentorship should be encouraged,
4. Youth should be role models in order to help other youth to engage in development,
5. Youth should be integrated into all local and national development programmes and frameworks.

The Youth-led methodology is increasingly being utilized by policy makers, practitioners and researchers. Most recently the 15 countries of the Ibero-American.

A Step by Step Guide on the establishment of a **One Stop Youth Centre**



One Stop Youth, Tanzania © UN-Habitat



Kimisagara One Stop Youth Employment Centre,
Kigali, Rwanda © UN-Habitat



Example Achievements:

- Providing safe space for youth to engage and undertake productive activities (e.g 1000 youth in Kigali utilizes the space on a daily basis).
- Influenced national youth policy changes such as in the case of Kenya and Rwanda where the model was utilized in the development of the city level and national youth development policies.
- Outreach and sensitization programmes on drug and substance abuse to schools in informal settlements.
- Vocational and skills training for youth in various trades including ICT, mobile phone repairs construction and appropriate technologies, plumbing, electricians and water managers.
- Life skills including leadership, volunteerism, community service, cultural enrichment and driving lessons.
- Model replicated under the UNDAF frameworks in Uganda and Rwanda.
- Development and dissemination of a series of five manuals focused on One Stop set-up guide, Youth information workers guidelines, entrepreneurship programming; community asset mapping, participatory planning and evaluation of urban youth centers. The manuals allow for divesture to other cities and countries.

Youth attend training at the Kamisagara Centre
© Julius Mwelu/UN-Habitat



Youth make a living from garbage collection,
Korogocho, Kenya © UN-Habitat



One Stop Youth Centre's Success Stories

MR. KIWANULA MPIIMA

Mr. Kiwanula Mpiima from Kisugu slum area in Kampala undertook the entrepreneurship training programme conducted by the One Stop Centre, Kampala. Before the training Kiwanula was working with a colleague selling second hand clothes. After the training he was empowered to set up his own business known as KAKS IT services. Utilizing collateral provided by his family he was able to access funding from the Trust Bank totaling 1,000,000 Uganda shillings (400 USD). The business has since expanded and Mr. Mpiima is now selling telephone accessories and renting movies. From his business proceeds, he is able to pay his monthly loan installments of approximately 50,000 Uganda shillings (20 USD). He has improved the living conditions of his family through involving his wife in running the enterprise. Kiwanuka's vision is to be able to set up a phone repair workshop.

KAJJANSI YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE, UGANDA

Kajjansi Youth in Development Initiative (KYDI) is a youth-led group started by Kenneth, a youthtrained in Entrepreneurship at the One Stop Youth Centre in Kampala. Before the training, Kenneth was jobless and had dropped out of college due to financial challenges. Given his commitment to empowering young people, he was selected to participate in the UN-Habitat Training the Trainer Entrepreneurship programme that was held in Nairobi in 2009. Kenneth says that the training is the best thing that ever happened to him because it helped him identify the opportunities that existed in his home town of Kajjansi in Uganda. Kenneth used savings of the training allowances to pay his fees and decided to start up KYDI to support other young people. He identified unemployment problems faced by many young people and the poor such as the challenge of solid waste management and disposal in and around Kajjansi. Addressing this, in 2009 he established a Garbage Management Unit in KYDI that provides garbage collection as well as gardening services in Kajjansi 8 kilometers from Kampala city. Kenneth is happy to report that the initiative that started with only 3 clients has expanded to over 80 registered clients and employs 8 young men and women today. Currently the group has been recommended to undertake a contract with an upcoming Private Sector Recycling plant.

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