



African Union International  
Center for Girls & Women's  
Education in Africa

# Youth Capacity Building (YCB) Program





## BACKGROUND

The African Union's International Center for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA) is a specialized institution of the African Union, established for the promotion and advocacy of gender equality in education on the continent.

Within the spectrum of the continental development framework, the Agenda 2063, and related education strategic articulations, young women and men are the cornerstones to African developmental ambitions. Aspiration 6 of the Agenda 2063 articulates the expectations of these youth as transformation agents for "An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential offered by African people; especially its women and youth".

Africa's population is growing fast, estimated at 1,382 billion (September 2021), with 691.1 million female population, and an approximated 60% under 25-year-old; and expected to house the world's workforce by 2035. Nonetheless, gender equality and women's empowerment is a thorn in Africa's development and has not been able to translate itself into smart investments for the opportunity the continent avails itself for the desired transformation into inclusive social and economic growth. Africa's development, thus, needs to take on increasingly, a youthful and female face and equip the young people, both female and male, to become movers and shakers for an Africa that they want and aspire for.

It is thus through the African Union's strategic guidance spelt in the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) (2016-2025) and accompanying Gender Equality Strategy (GES4CESA); the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (STISA), the Continental Technical and Vocational Education and Training Strategy, the African Youth Charter as well as the recent Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy (2018-2028), that AU/CIEFFA is also able to connect and equip Young Africans as change makers for gender equality issues in education.



## **VISION**

To build a community of African youth champions working towards an engendered education eco-system in Africa.

## **MISSION**

To engage, empower and build the skills of young people championing gender equality in and through education in their respective communities.

## **VALUES**

We believe in collaboration, partnership and the power of community. These three values are integral pillars to building the Africa we want and an inclusive future fit for all.

## **TARGET AUDIENCE**

The program is targeted at young African women and men, aged between 18 to 35 years old; with representation from each of the 55 AU Member States.

These youths come from a broad range of educational backgrounds including but not limited to education, business, media and science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM).

We select young people who are actively using their talents and skills to address prevailing gender equality issues in the communities where they come from.

# YCB CURRICULA



Each cohorts curriculum is designed to meet the emanating needs that hinder the effective and efficient management of selected youth champions initiatives and pressing topics in Africa's socio-economic and education sectors. Since the inception of the program in 2017, we have covered among other courses the following topics;

- Gender Equality in Education
- Community Development & Girls Education
- Organisational Governance
- Project Management
- Advocacy
- Social Entrepreneurship & Financial Literacy
- Branding & Marketing
- Digital Literacy and Skills (Coding, Graphic Design & Civic Tech)

The program also offers participants the opportunity to learn and get updated on new knowledge and information at policy and practice levels within the continent that affect women's socio-economic development and education, and extends to existing legal frameworks in support of gender equality in education in Africa; the education and training, as well as gender and youth-related strategic frameworks.

Through the YCB program participants gain access to a community of successful female and male role models and mentors who are movers and shakers within their communities of influence. Participants also connect to the AU/CIEFFA's network of partners who offer a diverse range of opportunities that assist in their self-development and the development and sustainability of their community initiatives or social businesses.



# HOW WE DELIVER THE PROGRAM

The program is delivered in the form of workshop sessions facilitated by various experts from diverse fields over a period of four days.

## PARTNERS

Every year the AU/CIEFFA actively engages with a diversified group of partners working in the developmental and corporate industries to develop and deliver the program successfully.

### Funding Partners

- The Norwegian Mission to the African Union

### Supporting Partners

- Ministries of Education, Gender & ICT (AU Member States)
- Microsoft4Africa,
- UNICEF (Data Must Speak)
- WAAW Foundation
- Women Engineering (WomEng)
- The Norwegian Mission to the African Union
- Magamba Network

## YCB IMPACT

**243**

Youth Champions  
working to advance  
girls and women's  
education in Africa  
trained since 2017



**86,5%**

of our our alumni  
are young women

To date, 243 youth have been trained since the inception of the program in 2017. 209 young women; 27 young men from 55 countries. Our alumni through their work and initiatives are influencing classrooms, national policies and laws, businesses and the developmental space in Africa.



# ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES



## **MS. SEFORA KODJO KOUASSI, 2018 ALUMNI**

Founder of the SEPHIS Foundation, an organisation empowering young women through business training. Through her organisation, she runs the African Women of the Future fellowship program offering entrepreneurial and leadership training to 36 young women from 6 African countries (Ivory Coast, Ghana, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Togo).



## **HON. EMMA THEOFELUS, 2017 ALUMNI**

In 2020, aged only 23 years of age Emma Theofelus became the youngest Member of Parliament in Namibia and was appointed as Deputy Minister of Information, Communication and Technology in March of the same year. She is youngest person to hold a ministerial position in Namibia. Ms. Theofelus also sits on the board of Namibia's National Council of Higher Education and was listed as one the 100 most influential African women, the youngest person on this list.



## **MS. CATHERINE NAKABUGO, 2018 ALUMNI**

Catherine is one of the top 50 finalists for the 2018 [Global Teacher Prize](#) and founder of Direct Hand Foundation, an organization that empowers out-of-school girls through the promotion of technical and vocational education and training and entrepreneurial initiatives in Uganda. Catherine is currently building a 21st Century school in Kidera, a rural village in Uganda.



## **MS. ANOZIVA MARINDIRE, 2017 ALUMNI**

Founder of the USAWA Institute, an organisation promoting gender equality, girls and women's socioeconomic empowerment through education and advocacy in Zimbabwe. USAWA's project, Girls Speak Out, teaches girls coding, digital media and advocacy skills and was recognised as one of the 90 International Telecommunications Union (ITU) WSIS Prizes Champion projects in 2019. In 2020, Marindire joined the AU/CIEFFA as our Communications Officer. She is also listed as one of the 100 Most Influential Young Leaders in Africa for 2019/2020.





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