

Y CARE INTERNATIONAL

Making an Impact

Prepared
for YMCAs

YMCA

“Over the last year we have been supporting Y Care International’s great work overseas through their Investors in Young People Fund. We have been extremely pleased to see how our funding has made such a difference to the lives of the most vulnerable young people around the world. With more support from YMCAs in the UK, we can see many more young people around the world living, learning and earning.”

Chris Hand, CEO YMCA Fairthorne



“After the training about life skills, I became more confident, more engaged in terms of recruiters because before I was so shy. Now, I can trust other people and I have more self-esteem. The training the YMCA provided created a big impact on my life because first of all I found a job. After the training, the YMCA helped me with every step of my work. Right now, I can contribute to the income in the house. I also support my younger brother with his school fees and I save about a third of what I earn a month. My hopes for the future are that I will have my own house and business, building on what the YMCA has taught me.”

Ainga, 22, Madagascar

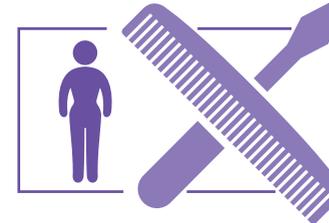


Making an Impact

Our Friends of Y Care partners have helped create opportunities for young people to help themselves out of poverty.

Thanks to you we have:

Worked with a unique network of YMCAs and other partners in 15 of the poorest countries - mainly in Africa as well as Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East



Helped young people help themselves out of poverty, by finding jobs or setting up businesses

Worked with young men and women aged 15-24 made vulnerable by poverty, inequality and injustice



1,000

Supported over 1,000 ICS volunteers to enjoy once in a life time experiences helping other young people overseas.

Enabled young people in the UK and internationally to make changes as active citizens

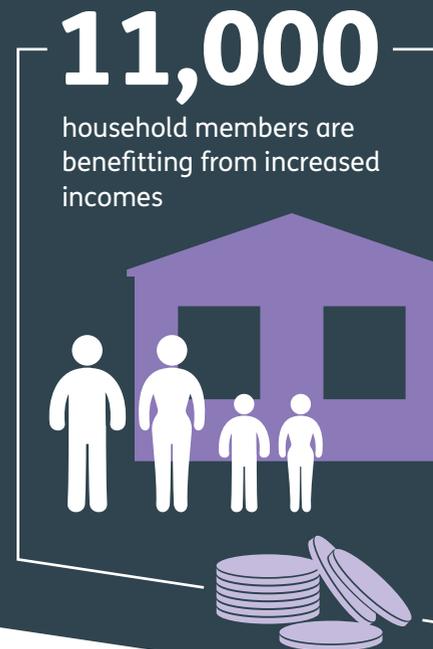
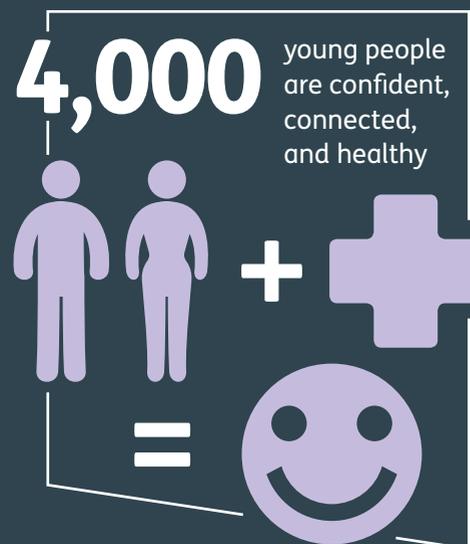


What are we working towards together?

By 2020, we will create opportunities for over 60,000 vulnerable young women and men and their communities through enterprise and employment. Our vision of success is young people who are in work, healthy, resilient and treated fairly.



With your help and support, over the last year we have made real headway in reaching our ambitious targets:



Typically average monthly income for the young people we work with increased from **£13** to at least **£35** a month after our training



55,000 empowered active citizens are campaigning for justice, health, and jobs



100,000 young people know more about health, justice and disasters and how these issues can impact their businesses and employability.





“ I trained in poultry farming. I learnt techniques like how to treat sick animals, and managing feed. The YMCA provided me with 20 chicks and 60kg of feed.

I've seen my profit rise to 208,000 Ariary (£50) per month. I was encouraged to save and joined a micro-finance institution. I can now employ other people. ”

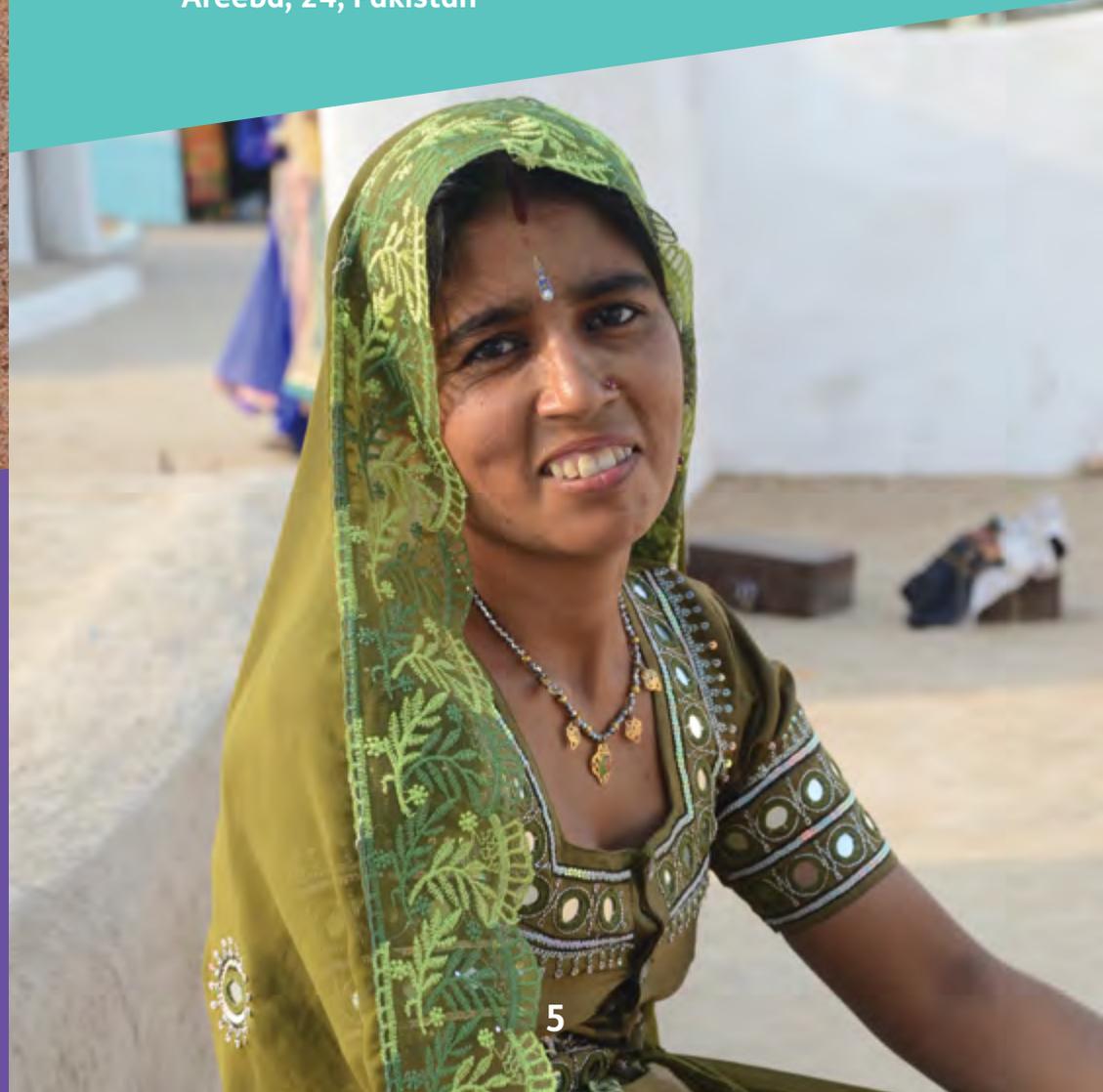
Sandrine, 19, Madagascar

“ I had some embroidery skills but I didn't know how to sell my work. I only sold to nearby houses and the money I earned wasn't enough to cover our needs.

I also picked cotton. This was tiring work, ten hours per day for only 100 rupees (£1).

Now I've learned about new designs and stitches. I'm more confident in my writing and I can negotiate with buyers. ”

Areeba, 24, Pakistan



Where we work

We work across 25 programmes to tackle unemployment among young people.



1.

UK and Ireland
Over 1,000 young people volunteered to tackle poverty overseas through the International Citizen Service

Occupied Palestinian Territory
Young West Bank women facing discrimination and isolation starting their own businesses and mentoring other entrepreneurs



1.



2.

Togo
Young people detained without charge learning about their rights to challenge injustice in prison

Pakistan
Young rural women learning skills and connecting to urban markets for more profitable embroidery businesses



2.

Nicaragua
Young farmers learning sustainable farming methods and engaging local markets to combat effects of climate change



3.

Colombia
Working with young people to protect them from violence by providing life skills and access to education.



4.

Sierra Leone, Liberia and Togo
Campaigning for better access to health, education and job opportunities in slum communities



5.

Myanmar
Young people suffering discrimination because of disability, gender or sexuality supported to fight stigma and stand up for their rights



3.

- Photos:
1. Javier Acebal
 2. Nile Sprague/YCI
 3. Meghna Manaktala/YCI
 4. Ed Sebastian Lozano
 5. Hannah Maule-Ffinch/YCI

- Photos:
1. Tom Burke/YCI
 2. CWS
 3. Gemma Shaw

Supporting the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people to take control of their own lives.

Edison's Story, 18, from Bogota YMCA, Colombia

“ My father left when I was 14 and I dropped out of school, left my family, and joined a street gang. I was addicted to drugs, and I used to rob people to survive. But then I lost friends, who were killed by police and gangs, and I started to realise that life on the streets is hard and dangerous.

I felt helpless. I knew that I was in need of help but I didn't know where to go. Luckily I was approached by the YMCA. They gained my confidence because they seemed genuine and showed real interest in me and respect for my story, without any judgment.

The project helped me to go back to school and this year I finished college. I am very proud because I never thought I would be able to study again. I also learned how to write a CV and attend job interviews. And now I've got a stable job in a supermarket.

I have become a positive role model in my community and an incentive for others to do better. This made me feel so empowered and proud for the first time in my life. ”

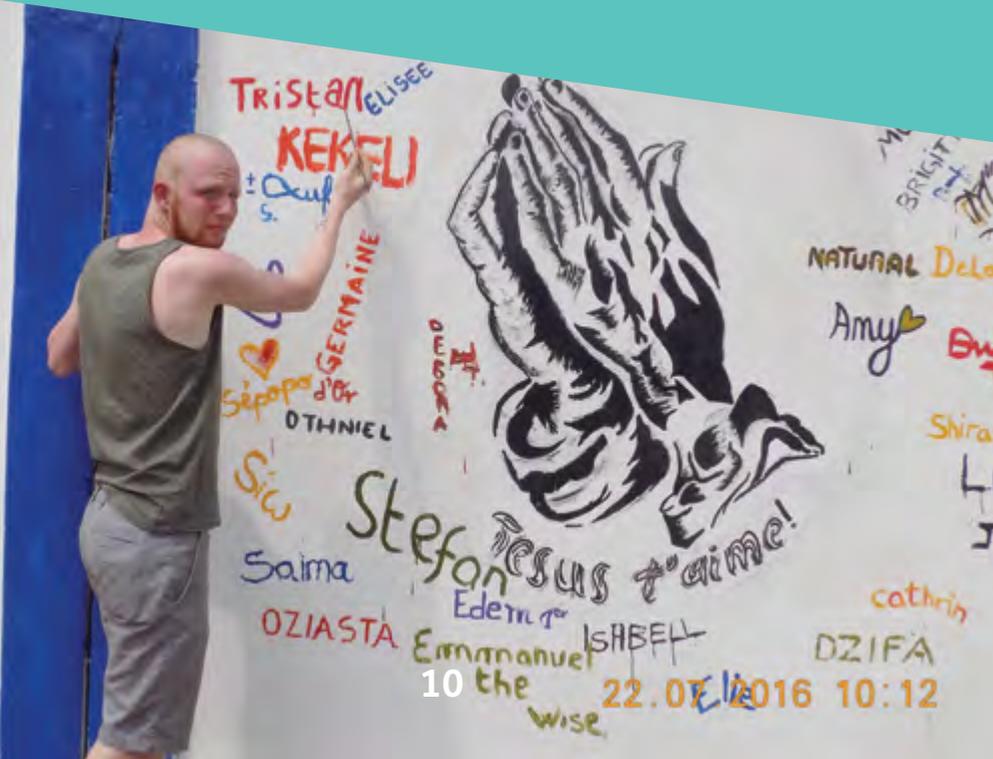


Tristan's Story from the UK

I wanted a challenge. I wanted something new I could get my teeth into. I saw the advert and I took three months out of my life and spent it in a different country and helped other people through difficult situations.

When you come back off placement you've got to do a little bit of a project, no matter how big or small, in your own community. I started up my own charity. It helped me chase my dreams. It helped me complete things that I'm passionate about. It's been incredible. I love the travelling. I love being able to tell other people about my experience. Because it helped me so much, and it's helped me change my life for the better, I want to share it with the world. For me, to be able to work with such an amazing charity, who help other people and who do what I want to do in life, you know, it's just incredible and I've loved every moment of it. It's an opportunity that cannot be missed. It's got to be done. It's an incredible opportunity – you've got to do it.

Tristan from Liverpool visited Togo as part of our ICS programme



Sabah's Story from Palestine

My name is Sabah and I am 24 years old. I was born in Aqber Jaber Refugee Camp. I have lived in this refugee camp my whole life.

Living in the refugee camp, it's hard to get a job and training is not available usually to young people like me. Without prospects, I used to feel very shy and stayed at home.

It was my father who told me about the YWCA training opportunities. Getting involved in the training I learned how to prepare my CV, go to formal interviews, and how to interact professionally with employers.

This made me gradually feel more confident.

I now work as a Youth Business Coach for the YWCA of Palestine providing advice and support to other young women from my village setting up small businesses. I am very proud of myself.

My involvement in the project has given me a range of skills and I now feel like a young leader. It has helped me come out of myself and I want to continue working with the YWCA and the Aqber Jaber Refugee Camp Women's Centre.



Narzia's Story, 16 years old, from Bangladesh

“ I'm a peer educator and I was trained on sexual reproductive health, dangers of child marriage and violence against women so that I could train and protect other young people in my community. Every month I meet with female survivors of gender based violence and community members know that if they have an issue they can come to me and I will provide counselling and support.

Initially I encountered quite a lot of resistance from the community members who told me that young girls shouldn't be talking about such issues, and that it was only right for girls to marry at 18 or below. After some time, attitudes from community members have started to change and they have become more accepting of our messages. Parents and guardians are starting to see the value of educating their female children rather than marrying them off quickly, and child marriage cases are less prevalent in my community. I love being part of the project - since I was a little girl, I always wanted to do something for my local community. My dream is to study for a masters degree and get a good job. ”

Looking Forward to Next Year

To reach 60,000 young people and **their communities** by 2020 we need your help to get there!

Like our UK based YMCAs we want to transform communities around the world so that all young people can **belong, contribute and thrive**. With your help over the next year we will be able to empower young people like Edison and Sabeh to help take control of their lives.

- ◀ **A gift of £4,000** can provide 'Business Clinics' (with one-to-one support and mentoring) for 250 young entrepreneurs in Madagascar
- ◀ **A gift of £8,000** would provide 500 rural young people with life & business skills to set up their own business in Madagascar
- ◀ **A gift of £10,000** could train 70 young people in Liberia with literacy and numeracy skills to create a small business or to secure a job

We are also piloting a digital link up scheme between young people in the UK and young people in Liberia. Please let us know if you'd like to be involved!

Thank you for your continuing support!

Your Feedback

We want to communicate the difference your support is making in the best way possible. We can tailor our communications with your help to meet your needs. Please share feedback and comments with Gemma directly. We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact us at:

T: +44 207 549 3150

Gemma.Shaw@ycareinternational.org



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