

Impact Report 2025



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In 2025, the YBI Network supported:



277,879



young people to develop their entrepreneurship skills



24,173

young people to
start a business

58,320

young people to
strengthen a business



The creation of more than

368,640

new jobs



241,966

young people received
entrepreneurship training

62,955

young people
were provided with
business advice

34,641

young people were
matched with mentors

30,572

young people were
supported to access finance

1 Introduction



Acquila Kadzo Mwangeka, 30, Founder of Mama Lucy Salon, Kenya, supported by YBI member CAP YEI

2025 has been an extraordinary year for Youth Business International (YBI).

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we reflected on a quarter-century of working with our members to champion young entrepreneurs and strengthen the ecosystems that enable them to thrive. What began in 2000 as a bold vision to ensure that every young person with the drive to build a business has access to the support they need has grown into a global movement now spanning more than 80 countries, with a network of members collectively reaching hundreds of thousands of young entrepreneurs every year.

Throughout this milestone year, we have witnessed once again the ingenuity and determination of young entrepreneurs who are not only building businesses, but also driving economic growth, creating jobs, and delivering solutions to global challenges. In 2025, the YBI network supported 277,879 young people to develop their entrepreneurship skills, empowered 24,173 young people to start a business, and supported the creation of more than 368,640 new jobs, a powerful testament to the collective impact of YBI and our members around the world.



YBI members at the YBI Member Learning Exchange in London, UK, June 2025

What we achieved in 2025 reflects the ambitions we set out in our 2022–2025 strategy, which challenged us to go further – to reach more young entrepreneurs in more places, to develop more effective and evidence-based models of support, and to use our global platform to influence the policies and investment decisions that shape the environments in which young entrepreneurs operate. In 2025, we delivered on each of these commitments. We welcomed 13 new member organisations spanning 25 countries to the YBI network, bringing our total reach to 78 countries at the end of the year, and launched the YBI Africa Collaborative, a pan-African initiative uniting six of our members to drive systemic change across the continent. We deepened our programme portfolio through initiatives including AI skills, refugee and migrant entrepreneurship, access to finance, and high-growth support, while publishing reports advocating for greater and more targeted investment in young entrepreneurs globally.

As we reach the close of this strategic period, we celebrate what has been accomplished: a stronger and more diverse network, deeper partnerships with funders and ecosystem actors, and measurable improvements for hundreds of thousands of young entrepreneurs around the world.

YBI is pleased to share that we have met our headline strategic target – supporting the creation of over one million jobs through 230,315 youth-led businesses over three years, a milestone that speaks to the scale and reach of our collective impact.

The lessons learned and the momentum built over this period will directly inform YBI's next chapter, as we develop a refreshed strategic direction for the years ahead – one that builds on 25 years of impact and looks boldly towards the next 25.



YBI Member Learning Exchange between MyDough (South Africa) and Anza Entrepreneurs (Tanzania)

2 Accelerating Impact Through Global Programmes



Kim Eun-Kyo, 27, CEO of MNO, South Korea,
supported by YBI member Work Together Foundation

2025 saw continued momentum across our programmes, with new launches, extensions, and innovations enabling us to support young entrepreneurs in new and meaningful ways.

From harnessing the power of AI to supporting displaced entrepreneurs rebuilding their lives, our programmes reflect the breadth and ambition of YBI's work, each one rooted in the belief that with the right support, young entrepreneurs can transform not only their own lives but the communities and economies around them. Across every initiative, our members brought local expertise, dedication, and creativity to deliver meaningful, measurable change.



Eylül Er, 26, Türkiye



Park Guwon, 34, South Korea



John Mwakupha Kadongo, 34, Kenya



Saverino Mugarura, 32, Uganda

AI Ignite – Empowering Young Entrepreneurs to Harness AI



With support from Accenture, we launched AI Ignite, an initiative to close the growing digital skills gap by equipping young entrepreneurs with practical, business-focused AI capabilities. We delivered three cohorts of our AI Accelerator to 60 young entrepreneurs from around the world, enabling them to use AI to diagnose their sales processes, develop stronger pipelines, and apply AI tools to real business challenges.

Based on insights and feedback from the accelerator, our AI Community of Practice began co-designing a global AI curriculum that will be rolled out network-wide in 2026.



“I trusted YBI’s focus on real entrepreneurs and small businesses and saw it as a chance to turn AI from something “interesting” into a real competitive advantage for my brand. My offer and messaging are much clearer, and I now approach marketing and lead generation with a more systematic mindset.”

Astghik Aslanyan

Social Entrepreneur and Business Developer, Armenia, supported by YBI member Jinishian Memorial Foundation

SEER – Supporting Refugee and Migrant Entrepreneurs in Europe

We extended our Seeking Economic Empowerment and Resilience for Refugees and Migrants (SEER) programme, in partnership with Accenture, to support more than 1,000 young refugees and migrants across Germany, France, Sweden and Ireland over 12 months. The programme provided entrepreneurship training, employability support, and vital networks for young people rebuilding their lives in new contexts.



591

young refugees and migrants started or formally registered businesses as a result of the training



695

improved their business or upskilled



Varsik Ordoyan, 34, Founder of ORDOYAN Varsik, France, supported by YBI member POSITIV

High Flyers: Empowering high-growth potential entrepreneurs to scale

2025 was the final year of YBI's High Flyers programme, funded by Argidius, which supported underserved growth-stage young entrepreneurs across nine countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America. Over three years, the initiative brought together 11 YBI members to codify best practices, deliver targeted scaling support, and gather evidence on what young entrepreneurs need to grow.

Over the course of the programme:



400+

young entrepreneurs across nine countries accessed tailored support



200+

received at least 12 months of structured mentoring



300+

completed growth-focused enterprise training

In early 2026, YBI will release the final High Flyers Guidelines, a set of practitioner-led guidelines grounded in real-world delivery and informed by the specific challenges that high-growth entrepreneurs face. They are designed to help enterprise support organisations (ESOs) sharpen their strategies, strengthen their models, and better position young entrepreneurs to achieve sustainable growth.



"We have implemented guideline four, Mentorship, and guideline six, Monitoring and Evaluation. As a result, we've seen a number of entrepreneurs even more than double the amount of capital in their business and their sales revenue increased."

Andrew Niwagira
YBI member Enterprise Uganda



Euniece Acen, 34, Founder of Golden Poultry Farm, Uganda, supported by YBI member Cordaid Uganda

High Flyers South Korea

Following on from the success of the High Flyers initiative, YBI member Work Together Foundation has been delivering the High Flyers South Korea programme, supported by JPMorgan Chase, throughout 2025. The programme supported early-stage young entrepreneurs with high-growth potential to secure funding and expand their market reach, with a particular focus on reaching underserved young people, including 70 per cent female entrepreneurs. Concluding in December 2025, the programme reached 231 young entrepreneurs, with 58 receiving intensive training and support.

Among those who received the intensive training, 32 businesses have increased revenue, and 25 are now profitable. Additional mentoring support was provided in the last phase of the programme, and participants reported that this has been invaluable for developing confidence in their business plan.

As High Flyers South Korea ends, it's evident that young entrepreneurs provided with the right guidance are building stronger, more resilient businesses with a tangible social and economic impact.



"Feedback from mentors was instrumental in preparing successful R&D support project applications. I also learned about AI automation tools, which we continue to use today."

In Chang Yoo, 35

Founder of Intalk, South Korea, supported by YBI member Work Together Foundation

Empower and Elevate – Enabling Inclusive Futures

Funded by Standard Chartered Foundation, Empower and Elevate supports young entrepreneurs in Brazil, Poland, Türkiye and the UK to grow their businesses and create jobs in their communities. The programme prioritises those who face the greatest barriers to entrepreneurship, including women, people with disabilities, refugees and migrants, and young people from minority or low-income backgrounds and has provided tailored training and acceleration support to young entrepreneurs throughout 2025. In addition, YBI began the development of a financial health diagnostic tool, co-created with programme members and external experts, to help ESOs strengthen their financial literacy and access support to young entrepreneurs.



"Before joining the programme, we struggled to reach our target audience effectively and to develop an effective sales strategy. The mentorship provided during the programme helped us clarify our marketing and sales channels and better define potential partnerships. We also had the opportunity to develop growth-oriented strategies."

Elif Haskırış, 28

Founder of SporAra, Türkiye, supported by YBI member Habitat Derneği

Unlocking Opportunities for Inclusive Financial Growth

Funded by Standard Chartered Foundation, this programme addresses the financial barriers faced by young, underserved entrepreneurs in Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria and Vietnam by providing access to microloans, credit-scoring tools, accelerator programmes and investor readiness support through four YBI member-led country projects. By November 2025, over 500 young entrepreneurs in Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, and Vietnam were enrolled in intensive support activities as part of the programme.



Miriam Mukami, 32, Founder of Touché by Kami, Kenya, supported by YBI member Somo



"I wasn't keeping my accounts right, and it was very difficult to expand. The programme helped me understand how to manage my resources better and plan for sustainable growth. It was the clarity and discipline I needed to move forward."

Sefunmi Dada, 32

Founder of Skye Foodies, Nigeria, supported by YBI member FATE Foundation

In addition to the country projects, YBI leads an Access to Finance Community of Practice (CoP), which throughout 2025 has brought together the four programme members to share real-world experience and strengthen access to finance support for young entrepreneurs through peer learning and practical insight.



"Being part of the YBI Access to Finance Community of Practice has been a transformative journey for SVF. The biggest value lies in the global peer learning environment, where connecting with diverse members from all over the world helped me realise that 'access to finance' is not just about the capital itself, but about building a bridge of trust and common language between entrepreneurs and investors. This CoP has proven that we go further when we learn and grow together."

Dao Thi Hoai Phuong

YBI member Startup Vietnam Foundation (SVF)

Business Bridge – Empowering displaced young Ukrainian entrepreneurs to rebuild and grow in Poland

Supported by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and delivered by YBI member Youth Business Poland, Business Bridge provided intensive bootcamps in Warsaw and Gdańsk to help displaced young Ukrainian entrepreneurs restart and grow their businesses in Poland. Over 50 participants, the vast majority women, received training and mentorship in business modelling, marketing and resilience, and were connected with Polish entrepreneurs and innovators.



100% of participants reported increased business confidence and skills



83% plan to create new jobs within two years



10 finalists pitched high-potential ventures across sectors including AI, wellness, healthcare and fashion

The initiative reflects YBI's wider commitment to supporting refugees and displaced entrepreneurs through targeted, high-impact programmes.



Young entrepreneurs and Youth Business Poland staff at a Business Bridge pitch event

3 Expanding Our Global Network and Deepening Collaboration



YBI members at the YBI Member Learning Exchange in London, UK, June 2025

A thriving network is at the heart of everything YBI does. In 2025, we welcomed 13 new members working across 25 countries, launched our Africa Collaborative, and deepened the connections that enable our members to learn from and inspire one another.

Together, these developments reflect a network that is not only growing in size but strengthening in ambition, united by a shared commitment to unlocking the potential of young entrepreneurs around the world.



75 members operating across **78 countries** at the end of 2025



94.4% of YBI members reported that the network was 'useful' or 'very useful' in 2025, according to our Annual Member Survey



88.6% of members agree that YBI acts as a platform for them to connect with their peers and exchange ideas



91.4% of members agree that YBI supports them to share learning with each other



91.4% of members agree that YBI collaborates with them to develop and scale the most effective solutions to emerging and critical challenges in youth entrepreneurship



YBI Member Learning Exchange between FATE Foundation (Nigeria) and ideiaLab (Mozambique)

✦ 13 new YBI members working across 25 countries ✦

We welcomed 13 new members working across 25 countries to the YBI network in 2025. Their expertise in social impact, enterprise development, youth leadership, and financial inclusion significantly strengthens our collective ability to support young entrepreneurs worldwide.



Africa Alliance of YMCAs (19 African countries):

Connects and supports 23 YMCA National Movements across Africa, empowering young people through programmes spanning skills development, leadership, employment, civic engagement, and peacebuilding.



CURAD Agribusiness Incubation Centre (Uganda):

Supports young entrepreneurs, SMEs and farmers to create jobs, boost incomes and enhance agricultural productivity across East Africa.



Entrepreneurship Development Institute (Ethiopia):

Ethiopia's leading entrepreneurship organisation, providing end-to-end support to start-ups, SMEs and institutions through education, skills development, access to finance and ecosystem building, with a particular focus on high-growth sectors and underrepresented communities.



Anza Entrepreneurs (Tanzania): Has empowered over 3,000 entrepreneurs across sectors including agriculture, clean energy and health, providing strategic capacity building, affordable capital and business community linkages to help businesses grow, create jobs and transform Tanzania's economy.



DoniLab (Mali): DoniLab is a business accelerator in West Africa. Its mission is to support young entrepreneurs in their journey to success.



GAMBIA YOUTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Gambia Youth Chamber of Commerce (The Gambia): Empowers young entrepreneurs through training workshops, coaching and mentorship, advocacy, access to finance and networking opportunities, providing the tools and connections needed to start and grow successful businesses.



Ghana Chamber of Young Entrepreneurs (GCYE) (Ghana): Empowers young Ghanaian entrepreneurs through capacity building, advocacy, access to funding and networking opportunities, creating an enabling environment for sustainable business growth.



Inkomoko (5 African countries): Accelerates economic inclusion across five African countries by equipping entrepreneurs from displaced and marginalised communities with business support, capital and market access, enabling them to create jobs and move out of poverty.



Instellar Impact (Indonesia): Indonesia's pioneer in social impact advisory, having supported over 270 social enterprises since 2017 through consultancy, programmes and investment to accelerate social innovation.



Platform for
Social
Change

Platform for Social Change (Ukraine): Supports social entrepreneurs through education, investment and mentorship, with a mission to develop local initiatives that drive global change.



Sote Hub (Kenya & Tanzania): A leading entrepreneur support organisation and innovation hub operating in Kenya and Tanzania, focused on supporting SMEs and micro-enterprises across the blue economy, climate change, agritech and environmental conservation.



Welthungerhilfe Skill Up Project (Zimbabwe): Offers around 500 young people community-based apprenticeships that revive underutilised water infrastructure, create jobs, build social cohesion and develop character, using a partnership business model designed to stimulate wider community replication.



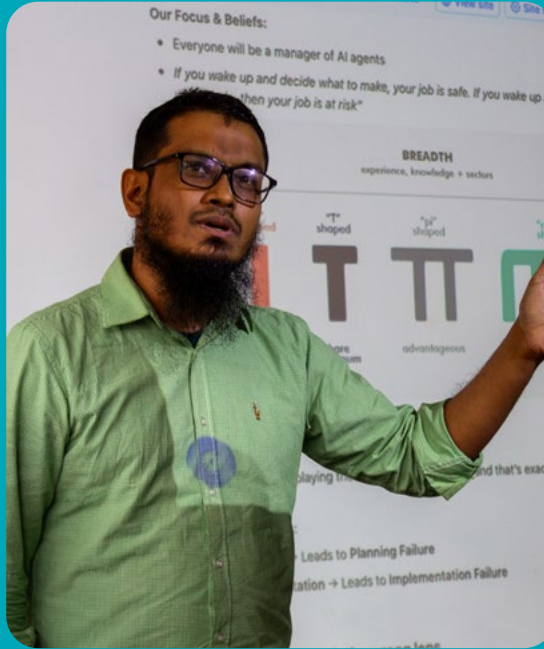
WYLDE International (Kenya): A consultancy and entrepreneurship development organisation that offers bespoke business transformation services, coaching, access to finance support and financial management training to entrepreneurs and organisations across Africa.

Member Learning Exchange Scheme

YBI's Member Learning Exchange Scheme, supported by Accenture, deepens collaboration across the network by enabling YBI members to visit peers, learn directly from their models and practices, and return with practical insights to strengthen their own programmes. In 2025, 24 YBI members participated in exchanges with visits ranging from Brazil to Korea, tackling topics such as:

- Blending digital and in-person support
- Enhancing advocacy and government engagement
- Building alumni networks
- Developing green and social entrepreneurship programmes
- Alternative financing models and data-driven approaches

Two group exchanges took place in London, hosted by UK members Hatch Enterprise, TERN and Launch It, as well as YBI partner Standard Chartered Foundation, focusing on financial health and impact measurement. An additional online exchange on mentoring brought together members from across regions to share strategies on mentor and mentee engagement. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with participants rating the scheme 4.92 out of 5.



"The visit created rare space for honest, peer-driven reflection. It wasn't just about learning best practices, but also about feeling seen and re-energised."

Rashed Mamun

YBI member Bangladesh Youth Enterprise Advice & Helpcentre (BYEAH), Bangladesh



YBI Member Learning Exchange, London, UK, June 2025



YBI Member Learning Exchange between Anza Entrepreneurs (Tanzania) and Anzisha Prize (South Africa)

YBI Africa Collaborative

In 2025, YBI and a dedicated group of six of our African members launched the YBI Africa Collaborative to address the systemic barriers facing young entrepreneurs across the continent. With a 10-year vision to make Africa the best continent for youth entrepreneurship, the Collaborative builds on the collective strength of YBI's members in the region, who together supported over 47,000 entrepreneurs and helped create almost 200,000 jobs in Africa in the past year alone. Focused on three core areas – enhancing access to finance, strengthening business development services, and fostering enabling entrepreneurship ecosystems – the Collaborative aims to move beyond individual entrepreneur support towards strategic, pan-African action that drives systemic change through local expertise.

The YBI Africa Collaborative consists of the following organisations:

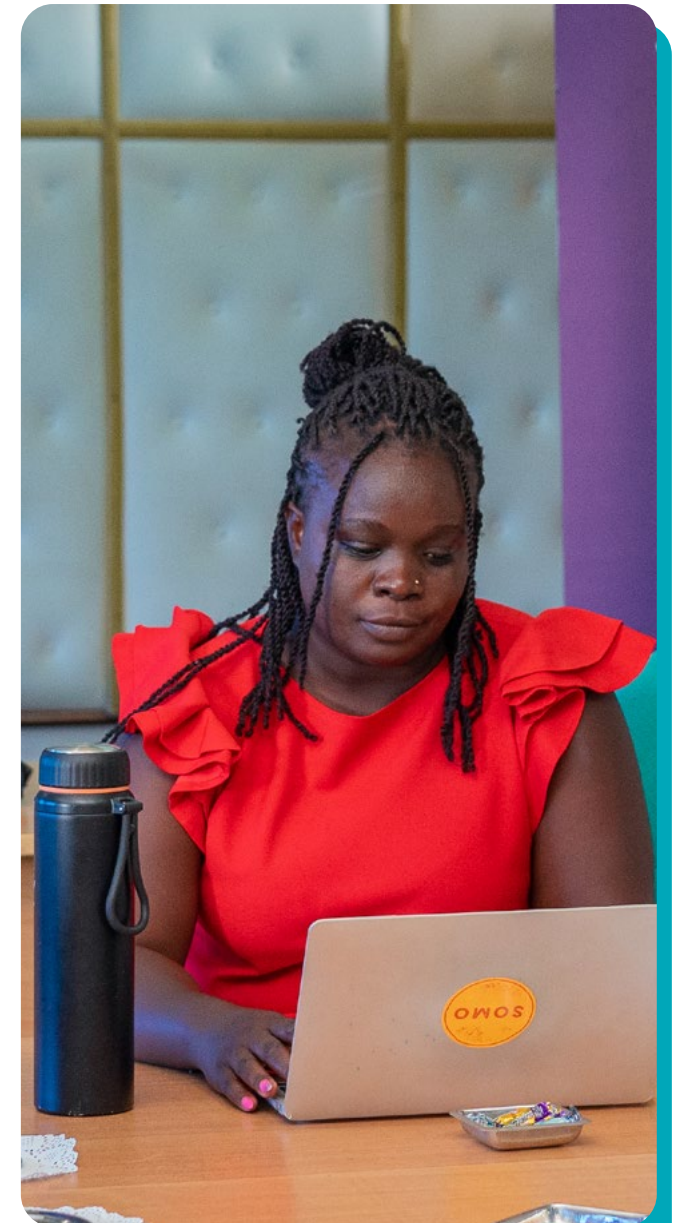
- CAP YEI (Kenya)
- Enterprise Uganda
- FATE Foundation (Nigeria)
- Fetola (South Africa)
- ideiaLab (Mozambique)
- Somo (Kenya)
- Youth Business International (YBI)



"The Africa Collaborative will be a gamechanger for youth entrepreneurship across the continent, creating a platform for systemic change driven by local expertise."

Adenike Adeyemi

YBI Board Trustee and former Executive Director at FATE Foundation, Nigeria



YBI member Somo, Kenya

4 Advocating for Global Investment in Youth Entrepreneurship



YBI panel at the Global Entrepreneurship Congress 2025

Programmes alone cannot create the systemic change that young entrepreneurs need.

That is why advocacy and thought leadership remain central to YBI's mission, influencing the funders, policymakers, and ecosystem actors who shape the environments in which young entrepreneurs operate. In 2025, YBI continued to shape global discourse through a series of publications, each making the case for greater and more targeted investment in young entrepreneurs and addressing some of the most pressing challenges they face – from the funding gap holding back “missing middle” businesses, to the risks and opportunities presented by AI, to the barriers blocking investment in youth-led climate innovation.



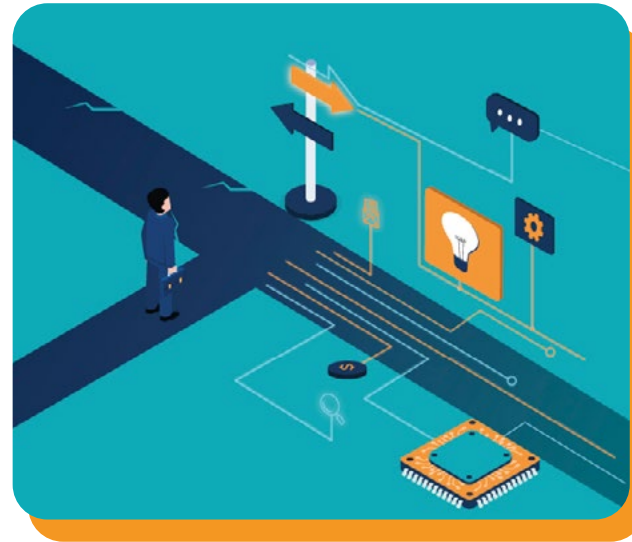
YBI panel at the Global Entrepreneurship Congress 2025

Our Publications



De-risking Youth Entrepreneurship and Unlocking the Missing Middle

Too many youth-led businesses fall into a funding gap – too large for microfinance, yet too small or perceived as too risky for mainstream investment. This paper outlines practical solutions to ensure these enterprises are no longer overlooked, presenting recommendations for tailored finance products, regulatory reform, and stronger mentoring models to unlock the economic potential of high-growth potential youth-led businesses.



Harnessing AI and Digital Solutions to Empower Young Entrepreneurs

As AI continues to transform industries globally, young entrepreneurs in underserved communities risk being left further behind without coordinated action. This paper warns that existing divides could deepen and lays out six recommendations to ensure AI becomes a driver of inclusion rather than inequality – from expanding digital infrastructure to developing localised, culturally relevant AI tools that reflect the realities of diverse markets.



Young, Green and Unfunded: How Three Myths Block Climate Innovation

Youth-led climate adaptation businesses are among the most innovative ventures globally, yet they remain chronically underfunded. This paper dismantles three pervasive myths that prevent investment from reaching these enterprises, making the case for new evaluation frameworks, enabling policies, and ecosystem reforms to unlock climate innovation where it is most urgently needed.

5 Looking Ahead to 2026



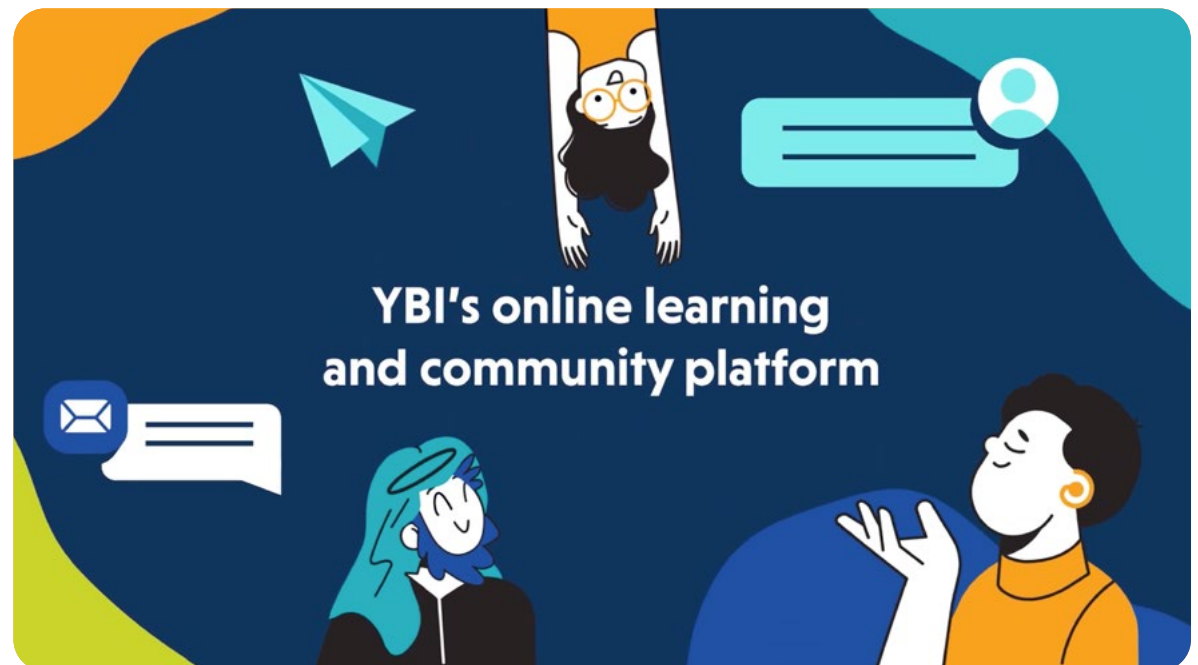
YBI Member Learning Exchange between Aliança Empreendedora (Brazil) and ideiaLab (Mozambique)

2026 marks an exciting new chapter for YBI.

With a refreshed strategy in development, we are reaffirming our commitment to young entrepreneurs worldwide – deepening pan-African collaboration, forging new partnerships, and expanding the reach and quality of support available across our global network.

A landmark moment will be the January 2026 launch of the Excellence in Youth Entrepreneurship (EYE) Academy, a dynamic new digital learning and community platform for young entrepreneurs, enterprise support organisations, mentors and practitioners. Building on 25 years of global expertise, the EYE Academy offers a rich library of resources, live and on-demand training, peer communities and credentials, making high-quality entrepreneurship support more scalable, inclusive and accessible than ever before. New learning resources covering AI, advocacy, investment readiness, financial health and mentoring will also be made available through the platform, alongside the release of the High Flyers guidelines.

We will also open applications for the second Youth Business International Bootcamp, bringing together young entrepreneurs from around the world for intensive, high-impact support. Exciting too is our selection as co-producer of a flagship Necessity Entrepreneurship Report with Generation Unlimited, due to launch at the United Nations General Assembly in 2026 – a collaboration that underscores YBI's growing influence on the global stage.



Annex

About Youth Business International (YBI)

We are the global leader in youth entrepreneurship. For over 25 years we've combined global influence with local knowledge and experience.

Young entrepreneurs have the power to boost employment and drive economic growth, their fresh perspectives and bold ideas also have the potential to reshape industries and societies for the better.

But for too many young people starting a business feels out of reach and they need the right support to succeed.

At Youth Business International, we support aspiring young entrepreneurs around the world to start, scale and sustain their businesses.

We develop and scale the most effective solutions to help young entrepreneurs succeed, from developing business skills, driving innovation and nurturing talent to unlocking finance and access to markets.

Join us to unleash the potential of young entrepreneurs to drive a generation for change.



YBI Member Learning Exchange between Aliança Empreendedora (Brazil) and ideiaLab (Mozambique)

Thank You to Our Partners

YBI is grateful for the continued commitment and generosity of our funders and partners, whose support makes our work possible.

The Accenture logo features a purple chevron symbol above the word "accenture" in a bold, black, lowercase sans-serif font.

accenture

The Argidius logo consists of a stylized diamond shape composed of yellow and green geometric blocks, followed by the word "argidius" in a lowercase, rounded sans-serif font.

argidius

The logo for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development features a blue circular emblem with two interlocking loops, positioned above the text "European Bank for Reconstruction and Development" in a serif font.

European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development

The logo for JPMorgan Chase & Co. is presented in a classic serif font, with "JPMORGAN" on the top line and "CHASE & CO." on the bottom line.

JPMORGAN
CHASE & CO.

The Standard Chartered Foundation logo features a stylized blue and green graphic element resembling a letter 'S' or a series of parallel lines, followed by the words "standard chartered foundation" in a lowercase, sans-serif font.

standard
chartered
foundation



www.youthbusiness.org



Youth Business International (YBI)



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Miriam Mukami, 32, Founder of Touché by Kami, Kenya, supported by YBI member Somo



YBI Member Learning Exchange between Bizrupt (Greece) and Hatch Enterprise (UK)