

FAHAMU-HURISA EXCHANGE  
PROGRAMME

# Monthly Report

**September, October 2017**

*“Mbuki has added great value and has shown great initiative and resilience both in her work and personal experiences in getting to understand South Africa” Tessa Dooms  
Managing Director, Youth Lab*

**youthlab**

**@YouthlabZa**



**@siasaplace**

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*Every Day is a learning experience, and Every experience is memorable but we have a choice to make our memories positive and Fruitful*

## Background and Summary

This report covers activities and progress from September 18<sup>th</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017. It reports against the 3 months Fahamu-HURISA exchange programme and Youth Lab activities

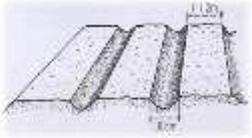
The Fahamu-HURISA exchange and learning project is an initiative aimed at developing the knowledge and skills as well as expanding the worldview of African youth leaders starting from Kenya and South Africa in order to develop them as leaders with Pan-African values within their respective countries. It is aimed at using the shared identities and struggles of young people in Africa to mobilise them into a continental movement addressing continental struggles including social injustices.

Youth Lab is a non-Partisan youth led think-tank that mainstreams youth perspectives on policy through interaction, knowledge sharing and capacity development. The impact youth demographic include students, youth at community level, politically active youth, young entrepreneurs and young professionals. Youth Lab works to provide platforms for young people and decision makers to exchange ideas, develop strategies and execute plans that will enhance the lives of young South Africans

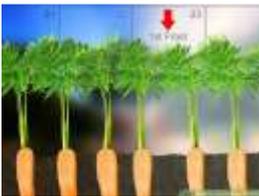
YouthLab works with a wide range of partners and therefore different focus areas from entrepreneurship to African Union youth participation and consultancies on facilitation on youth engagement. Youth Lab projects include ICRE8, Public Achievement and the Sexual and Reproductive rights for women and girls conference. The report will therefore focus on the above projects

The Exchange programme has made significant impact to Youth Lab operations through the addition of one staff member, FK Fellow. This impact has increased reputation for policy advocacy, thought leadership and youth engagement.

## Public Achievement



This is a project that targets young people to encourage them to start and manage initiatives in the informal settlements. The project which is run by Youth Lab and funded by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, has reached over 500 young people in Kliptown and Durban.



This is the first project I interacted with at Youth Lab. We visited two communities in Kliptown, one of them focused on agriculture to secure food security and the other focused on renovating Spaza Shops, Community Hall and set up a small farm. They were farming Carrots, Spinach, Cabbage, Butternut and Beetroot.



However, due to lack of experience, the nursery beds were not well prepared, a very small area was cultivated due to lack of equipments and lack of knowledge on the nature of crops maturity status. The crops in the nursery were watered yet they did not seem very healthy and therefore there was need to improve their skills in farm and crop management.



Since the young people were willing to scale up from agriculture and venture into the catering industry they had to get it right from the beginning. The Catering industry would only be realized if they had successfully managed the food produce to gain capital for the catering industry and also produce enough produce for the catering business to minimize costs of buying produce.



Therefore, I wrote a proposal to the managers at Youth Lab to scale up the support to these communities to equip them with basic skills in crop and farm management. The managers have since taken up the proposal and the community will undergo training both in house and practical on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Additionally, the community will get advanced equipments from Youth Lab to enable them scale up their farming.



In this regard, the group was farming in an informal settlement, formerly a dumpsite and abandoned land, a dumpsite that was a source to diseases to the people around due to bad smell. This was a transformation of unproductive and an environmental health hazard to a clean, useful that was now a solution to the biggest problem that has always been. With the rising interest to address climate change, there is a great need to combat the effects caused by the dumpsite and transforming it into a more useful entity through utilizing its organic richness for horticultural crops. Therefore, this particular project is a great platform to stakeholders in government and private sector to inject their resources towards fighting climate change. I offered to support in writing a proposal to reach out to Climate Change Champions while Youth Lab sponsored them to pitch the business model to Investec.

## Entrepreneurship Training

*If You Cannot Articulate an opportunity you cannot identify what other people are doing.*

The entrepreneurship training was a three-day training from the 26<sup>th</sup> September to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in Dieps-Loot township in South Africa. Youth Lab was facilitating the training sponsored by Bounders limited. I supported in facilitation and participated in the training as well. The entrepreneurship training brought together 20 young people from Dieps-loot and Alexandra township. The 20 Young people were to mentor entrepreneurs in the townships, Support them in different types of the workshop for a period of 6 months.

The training covered 12 modules which include Being an entrepreneur, know yourself, know your industry, Innovation, identifying marketing opportunities, Customer Service, Money management, purchasing stock, Managing people, Marketing and Sales, Goals and Networks and Business plan.

More than 80% of business in South Africa can be described as small business and much of it is taking place in the townships. Approximately 2.7% of South Africa's retail trade is from Spaza Shops amounting to R9 Million. The statistics show that an owner of a small business contributes significantly towards the South African economy through income generation and creating jobs.

Given the shortage of Jobs available in the formal sector, unemployment rate remains high at 27.7%. However, the expanded definition of the people who have stopped looking for work is at 36.4%. Due to this, many are turning to entrepreneurship to make ends meet. However, building a successful small business can be challenging.

### Being an Entrepreneur

An entrepreneur is a person who sees an opportunity and turns it into a profitable business using the necessary skills and resources to manage the risks. We earn a living through employment or starting our own business and earn income through the profits of the business. An individual can start a business to survive or if they have seen an opportunity. Some of the advantages of being an entrepreneur is an opportunity to; control your future, reach our full potential, to make a difference, to do what you enjoy and an opportunity to earn more. Some of the challenges entrepreneur face include; Losing money invested in the business, uncertain income, long and hard working hours.

## ICRE8



ICre8 is a programme for young innovators in South Africa that incubates original & game-changing ideas. iCre8 provides innovators with necessary skills and mentorship to move their ideas from discovery and research, towards execution and translation. iCre8 SA creates a supportive space which allows young people to test innovative ideas they already have, while gaining the skills that will help them with future ideas. The ideas chosen addresses a prevailing challenge in South Africa in a way that has impact and scale.

### iCre8 SA projects

**Educated** young innovators by providing personal, leadership and practical skills

**Mentored** young innovators during the programme

**Connected** young innovators with outside resources and talent (entrepreneurs, advisors, investors, and services providers) to help facilitate their individual projects

**Funded** venture development by providing internal funding and facilitating external funding with other institutions

**Incubated** startup ideas by providing suitable space and opportunities to exceptional ideas



During the exchange programme, we organized a ICRE8 skills festival in Kwaggafontein, Mpumalanga. The skills festival is a platform for youth to learn different set of skills in managing zero business budget, preparing for the job market and maximizing on resources available. The Skills festival also gave the young people an opportunity to showcase their business.

I managed social media platforms for YouthLab and assisted in the administrative work to ensure a successful skills festival.

Some of the take away from the Skills Festival. To convert your Idea-Business you need to consider; Business needs, Business Model (creating a plan for successive implementation) and the unique selling point. Zero budget business is utilizing what you have to the maximum, Lean concept, cutting the fat & using what you need at most. It is maximizing the least resources available for business operations. For business sustainability, Focus on your business needs, timelines and resources. Understand your business competition, redefine yourself and sell a specific aspect of your business. Human resources are key resource in a zero budget business, look for people in your network who have skills that you would require



## Communications and Website



Working at Youth Lab has enhanced my communication skills through enabling me to design posters and newsletters, administrate the website and manage social media platforms. They introduced me to tools like Tagul, Canva to better design conference materials. Additionally, I managed two websites, the youthlab website <http://youthlab.org.za/> and the Conference website <http://www.africasexuality.org/>. This has involved updating the website, Proof-reading the website and maintaining it.



One of the first task at youth Lab was to develop a communication strategy to better communicate the brand, activities and values. My commitment and the posiive outcome has built more confident amongst the YouthLab managers.

Youth Lab biggest project is the 2018 Conference on advancing the sexual and Reproductive Health in women and girls. This conference has exposed me to different networks especially the ICT Gurus where I have learnt a bit of coding and basic processes of building a website. The communication team comprises of four volunteers to which I coordinate to ensure everything is in order, support each one of them



I developed the communication strategy for the conference which has significantly enhanced engagement with the partners, Interested conference participants and conference organizers. I Introduced the idea of weekly twitter conversations gearing up to the conference every week on Thursdays. The tweet chats are moderated by different conference partners.



Additionally, I did the analytics of the engagement and storify the conversation. The Storify, putting the twitter conversation in structured way has proved to be very efficient as people are able to follow the conversation even if they were not able to participate in the tweet chat. The social media platforms for both the conference and youth Lab have grown followership with at least 10% across.



## AFRICAN UNION



YouthLab was invited to facilitate the finalization of Model AU Toolkit at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. This was 6-day engagement to finalize the Model African Union toolkit, participate in the Simulation exercises and Africa Youth Day celebrations.

The workshop started on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017 to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The process was basically to harmonize the Model AU exercises, provide a standard way of running a Model AU. A group of 20 young people were tasked to come up with a guide in which young people can use in conducting Model African Union.

It is the role of the young people to led advocacy in their countries to ensure the countries commit to the resolutions agreed in the African Union General Assembly. Therefore, they need to understand the way the African Union operates for them to seek accountability from their heads of states and representative of their mandate in the different organs within the African Union Organs.

I co-facilitated the finalization of the toolkit which involved developing a model canvas of 14 Organs of the African Union. This was a first time experience in facilitating such a high profile workshop, thank you to Youth Lab for the opportunity and for the exchange program for creating a platform to be in such a space.

Thank you for such a wonderful experience, thank you for making it interactive and for listening to our feedback. You are amazing facilitators. Not only are you results driven but you make sure to equip your team along the way. FANTASTIC!



For Three days, we were taken through the rules and procedures of running a Model African Union, observing the different elements in place to guide different organs. We also tested the toolkit model by simulating four committees based on this years of the African Union; “**Africa’s Youth for the Demographic dividend**”. The Committee include; Specialized Technical Committee, The peace and Security Council, The Economic, social, cultural Council (ECOSOCC) and the African Commission of Experts on the Rights and welfare of the Child (ACERWC).

I participated in the African Commission of Experts on the Rights and welfare of the Child and the problem statement;

### Sexual and reproductive Health and Rights of girls ....

*All girls have the right to access sexual and reproductive services and have the right to be aware and informed about these services. However African countries experience underuse of the sexual and reproductive health services. This is due to barriers such as service cost, distance, lack of awareness and information on where to get them, lack of confidentiality and negative attitude of service provider.*

*If we ignore this program, many girls will continue to face high mortality rates due to unsafe abortions, lack of access to contraceptives leading to high spread of STIs ad teenage pregnancy and school dropout due to the lack of access to sanitary towels. Therefore, how effective is the role of the government in ensuring the affordability and availability of SRH services for girls especially in remote areas? How can we better improving the involvement of the public health with the school system to promote and educate SRH for girls and what is the involvement of the public health with the school system to promote and educate SRH for girls and? Furthermore, what are the effects of culture on the SRH of a girl child and how can we create a positive attitude of health care workers in providing SRH services for girls? How can we solve the issue of lack of confidentiality and privacy in the SRH services?*

Being a delegate from Egypt, I sponsored the resolution to the chairperson of the committee, delegates from Djibouti, Mozambique, South Africa, Sao tome and principe, Somalia, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Cote D'Ivoire sponsored the resolution. The resolution was tabled at the executive Council, passed to the General Assembly with a few amendments.

At the General Assembly, the resolution was tabled again and it was passed by 53 states of the African continent out of the 55 members states. His resolution was the most adopted by the member states in comparison to all the resolutions that were tabled.

Below is the draft resolution:

### The States parties to this charter,

**Acknowledging** the efforts and initiatives taken by the African countries to cater for the welfare and rights of girls

**Guided by** Article 16 of the African Youths Charter which highlights the rights of all young people to attain quality and affordable healthcare

**Highlighting** the problems faced by young girls in their sexual and reproductive health

**Realizing** that the major causes of female mortality is due to the lack of affordable, accessible and quality healthcare

**Fully aware** of the economic, cultural and social challenges affecting the reproductive and sexual rights of girls





1. **Encourages** member states to increase health budgets and provide more funds to improve reproductive health services, which is affordable and easily accessible.
2. **Calls on** AU member states to improve awareness through health education programs both in the local community and in the educational curriculum to allow girls to make informed decision about their SRH.
3. **Asks** member states to put down strategies to train and oblige health workers on medical ethics in order to promote accountability, transparency and confidentiality in their relation with patients.
4. **Further request** programs to be designed which will empower young girls to be active in their society in promoting their SRH.
5. **Supports** the involvement and inclusion of local and religious leaders in the movement towards improving and solving the challenges girls face in regards to their health.
6. **Urges** the involvement of public health in the school and locals with a clear boundary of privacy.
7. **Endorses** the formation of a framework to ease access of justice and information for young girls that are affected.
8. **Finally requests** Monitoring and Evaluation that follow up and make sure that SRHR are fully maintained.

The Final day was celebrating the Africa Youth Day celebrations on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017. I supported Christopher, Communications Africa Youth Division in coming up with a communication strategy for the week long activity and especially the Africa Youth Day. The Hashtag #BeTheFutureToday was trending in a number of African countries.

The Chairperson was grateful for the good work done by the Toolkit team in defining a model African Union. The African Union Commission gave the certificates to all the participants. It was a really intense work but a lot to learn as well.

