

Background

Youth Association of Zambia (YAZ), was formed and registered with the registrar of societies under the societies act on the 12th May 1994 in Lusaka Zambia. It was further registered in 2006 with the National Youth Development Council, a quasi governmental organization under the act of parliament cap 102 mandated to register and monitor all the youth organizations in Zambia.

Mission statement

YAZ mission is to create a better future for young people and work towards a society where they are empowered to develop their potential and creativity as dynamic and responsible members of their respective societies; to participate fully at all levels of decision making and developmental process as volunteers and professionals both individually and collectively without any discriminatory practices. The role of YAZ is empower young people and build their capacities in different areas so as to enable them participate fully in the life of our country.

YAZ Objectives

1. To empower young people in communities with skills to enable them participate fully in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS through promoting behavioural and attitude change.
2. To strengthen organisational leadership and management capacities for youth leaders enabling them to participate fully in youth development at all levels.
3. To involve youths in both local and global cultural exchanges where they can share knowledge, ideas and experiences, allowing them to appreciate each other's diverse differences
4. To train Youth leaders in Advocacy and Lobby skills making them effective in placing priority youth issues on the national agenda.
5. To improve the standard of living for youths through business initiatives and training
6. To promote Environmental and Rural Livelihood Programmes to vulnerable young people in rural settings to contribute to national growth
7. To conduct international workcamps in needy communities.
8. To increase the civic education and voter awareness in electoral process among the youth.

Focus Areas

- Promotion of youth enterprise development

- HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness
- International Youth Exchange
- International Study and workcamps
- Democracy & Good Governance
- Gender mainstreaming in youth programmes

How we involve the youths?

First YAZ is a youth organization and as such the youth is the centre of the organization. Youths are involved through planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes

Constraints

- Limited funds to execute youth programmes
- Limited incentives for the volunteers
- Lack of government policy on volunteerism

What value do you see in the youth activities in your organization?

- The value I see is that it helps keep the youth more focused in pursuing their career
- It gives them a skill that could otherwise cost them a fortune if they enrolled in a college
- It improves on their skills and also sharing of skills with others adds more values
- It builds on their self esteem
- It moulds them in to responsible citizens
- It creates a sense of peace and non-prejudicial

YAZ sustenance

We sustain our organization through volunteer participation fee, donations from well wishers and grants from donors

Strategies of promoting volunteering

There are a number of strategies that promote volunteering such as:

Workcamps:

Workcamps are a way of involving volunteers to give their time and energy to work on projects that are beneficial to the community. Projects range from construction, environment, farming, and awareness and information dissemination to mention a few.

Youth Exchange Programmes:

This involves youth volunteers to live, plan and work together as they implement various activities such as HIV/AIDS awareness, gender awareness, and environmental sensitization etc.

Office work:

Volunteers are involved in various office works such as project proposal writing, typing, and designing logos, facilitation in workshops and seminars including taking minutes of meetings.