The Youth Employment Network (YEN)
About YEN

- Lead Country Network
- Youth to Youth Fund
- Innovative pilot projects
- Knowledge Sharing
- YEN Evaluation Clinics
- Brokering Partnerships
- YEN Marketplace
The Challenge

Youth in West Africa

- Large proportion of young people
  - 65% under 30

- High unemployment
  - ~20%
  + underemployment
  + discouraged workers

- Low wages
  - 50% earn under $1 a day
  - 65% - 90% earn under min. wage
The Challenge

The environment

• Large informal economy
• No job economies
• Entrepreneurship – necessity vs. opportunity
• Weak education system
• Political instability
Case study

Creating Jobs in a no job economy: The Youth to Youth Fund

- Youth-led development
- Innovation
- Pro-poor products and services, green micro businesses
- Cooperatives vs. entrepreneurs
- Comprehensive training approach
- Support/Monitoring network on the ground
- Impact evaluation
Case study

• Results of the pilot round:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications received:</th>
<th>270</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winners selected:</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant sizes:</td>
<td>$7,000 - $50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Grants:</td>
<td>$450,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Jobs created:</td>
<td>800 jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost benefit ratio:</td>
<td>$560 per job</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examples of projects

**SOS MISKINES**
Cash for plastic trash

**GUIDE**
*The Miracle Tree*
Policy Recommendations

• Building the evidence on what works and why
Areas for cooperation

- Expanding the Youth to Youth Fund
- Evaluation Clinics
- Bench marking youth employment
- Youth Employment Inventory
Thank you for your attention

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