



Alternative Youth Livelihood Project for Income Generation, Nutritional and Health Maintenance

The trend analysis and risk assessment of Africa recognizes that Youth unemployment and marginalization continues to represent a serious threat to Africa's peace initiatives. Conservative research reports indicate that African countries will have to provide jobs in excess of 45 million for young people ages 15-24 over the next ten years to address this unemployment crisis. This figure does not account for the fact that the African Youth Charter defines youth as those between the ages of 15-35, adding an additional 11 year group to account for. Given this added population, the figures of unemployed youth in Africa increases tremendously.

Due to this fragmentation of actors, there is growing recognition among all partners that short-term efforts for employment creation must be complemented by long term employment generation strategies through private sector development. In this vein, the proposed initiative confronts some of these realities and proposes ways to ameliorate the problem as a whole.

What should be done?

- ❖ Empower youth to take advantage of alternative livelihood opportunities as a means of employment creation and economic stimulation, by providing them with the requisite capacity and hardware support.
- ❖ Take advantage of value chains in the beekeeping industry, and at the same time address nutritional and health requirements for children, youth, women, the elderly and other community residents.
- ❖ Use modern eco-friendly beekeeping techniques and equipment.
- ❖ Establish solar-powered factories:
 - for packaging and labeling honey, and
 - to process beeswax which can be transformed into finished ready-to-sell commodities such as candles, and products of nutritional, medicinal and cosmetic value. (Recent research suggests that honey can also be a source of fuel.)
- ❖ Sell honey and other bee products through cooperatives, and savings and loans associations leading to increased household income and community prosperity.

What is the Impact?

- ❖ **Economic empowerment of the most marginalized group of young people—rural young women and men**
- ❖ **Positions young people for international market access to benefit from Economic Partnership Agreements**
- ❖ **Decongests urban areas that are overpopulated by rural-to-urban migration, thereby:**
 - **reducing crime, drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, STIs and HIV/AIDS**
- ❖ **Improves living conditions of communities (including positive health impact)**
- ❖ **Political and social empowerment of communities as a result of the economic empowerment**
- ❖ **Because bee farming is not time-intensive, this initiative can expand to incorporate literacy programmes, other agricultural components (poultry farming, animal husbandry and crop production) and support cultural activities for the community.**