

- PRESENTATION NOTES -

**Technology is the New Way of Helping Youth to Help Themselves in Nairobi Slums**

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2015 Africa Prosperity Summit, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Panel: Urbanisation, Opportunities and Security Challenges, Real Experience  
May 2015

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All Protocols observed  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning,

My name is Venuste Kubwimana, I was born and grew up in a rural and poor family of seven siblings in Southern province of Rwanda. In 1994 I lost almost everyone making it very difficult to meet my daily needs. Things got worse in 1999 when I lost the only person I was remaining with, my mum. I was 14 years old in high school. I was forced to look for a job to meet my needs. Of course no one would give me a stable job, a 14 years old and unknown boy. The frustrations that I went through gave me passion to create opportunities for my fellow youths not to go through the same situation.

With the belief that lack of employment opportunities for youth is not a short term problem in my motherland, Africa. In 2009 with support of fellow East African youth we established International Transformation Foundation as youth platform to harness creativity for Youth system that provide jobs; offering security, opportunities to grow, and contribute to the development of our communities.

We know, for example, that technological change will continue to have a profound impact on Global community. Young people have plenty to block out...often through self-destructive behavior But with the advent of social media, we observed an alternative addiction of youth-their obsession with technology, a craze that connects them with others rather than alienates them. That's how we came up with the 1 slum 100 Computers project to harness the hope and stickiness of this connection.

The project was inaugurated in Nairobi in 2013, where within a session of 6 months we provide free computer training and entrepreneurship mentoring to 30 youths divided into 3 groups with 10 members in Eastern Nairobi slums and informal settlements. Upon completion of the training and mentorship, we loan them computers and other technological devices to help them set up designed computer based business such as cybercafé.

Eastern Nairobi slums is deep rooted with unemployment and insecurity issues due to the growing sense of alienation felt by young men and women dropping out of schools to join gangs, violence and drug addiction as part of their everyday life just as in millions of communities around the world, where the future seems dark because of Poverty and unemployment being the norm.

With more job opportunities created by 1 slum 100 Computers project and more opportunities to the community' in eastern Nairobi slums we refashioned Eastern Nairobi slums into a powerhouse of opportunities providing jobs; opportunities to grow as well as curbing insecurity given that:

- When youths in slums becomes skilled professional business owners they don't feel the need to engage in immoral activities, like selling/taking drugs, robbery... which often causes insecurity.
- Through our free computer training and entrepreneurship mentorship assignments we keep them pre-occupied, leaving them with little time to idle and mingle with peer groups who might influence them negatively.
- After completion of the training sessions the youth group is funded to start up a designed profitable business in which they are expected to repay back the fund with a small interest. Prompting them to promote security in the area to be able to achieve their goal.
- Youths become self-reliable by becoming less involved in other activities that are not directly connected to their business to ensure its continuity.
- The now business owners (project graduate) train other youths in their slum on ICT and business skills they have acquired therefore reducing the number of youths who are idling around.
- By providing employment opportunities. The youth now set up their own businesses and employ other youths too, who earn an income, hence reduce involvement in immoral activities.
- Reducing low self-esteem and withdrawal from the youth because the learning process is so involving and intensive making the youths more confident once they start their own business. This helps them become leaders in the making and have to be a good example to the rest of the youth.
- The youth will now have the knowledge needed in ICT and this may enable them either to start up their own business or find other ICT related employment opportunities, providing them with a source of livelihood instead of getting involved in criminal activities.
- The project graduates become role models in the community, prompting other youths to emulate them.

Ladies and gentlemen that's how the 1 slum 100 Computer project have established technology as the new way helping youth to help themselves in Eastern Nairobi slums instead of dropping out of school to join gangs, violence and drug addiction as part of their

everyday life just as in millions of communities around the world where the future seems dark because of the poverty and unemployment.

Thank you.

Venuste K.

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