HIDDEN TREASURE
Freedom to Fly
The Flyboys of Isale-Akoka community Lagos, Nigeria.
The children swim here for fun and also after a stressful day, for them, the water isn’t just for fishing, but also a place to show their wonderful acrobatic skills. Maybe one day we'll find them in the Olympics representing the country.

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This publication is a celebration of the wealth of talent and imagination of our federation youth. Yes, there’s poverty and need, but there’s also an abundance of creativity and ingenuity. The solutions are in our hands. The treasure is right here in front of you.

* Value: Action
Weapon for change

The gap between those that have and those that do not gets wider every year. Climate emergency with its drought, floods, fires and biodiversity loss has forced many of us to leave our villages and come to the city in search of opportunity.

*Things have to change* and our generation is probably the last chance to make things right.

However, the problem of apathy and paralysing fear is made worse by some of the media – those who portray these issues as insurmountable, requiring us to hand all our faith to experts who know better than us.

We know better than that.

We know that education is the most powerful weapon with which to change the world. We know that information is power!

Our philosophy

So many images of development, poverty and informality are taken through the lens of the “other.” We say, "*Nothing for us without us.*" To professionals and agencies: you are welcome to work with us, but make sure skills, a network and increased access to opportunity remain here with us when you leave.

About us

Know Your City TV (or KYCTV) is a creative collective made up of the youth from the global movement that is Slum Dwellers International. Through our photography, film and stories we mobilise young people to make change at settlement, city and global level.

Get involved

To all ghetto youth we say things get solved when you get involved – join us! Start a chapter of KYCTV in your own settlement. We are open to working with media and development professionals if you come to us as equal partners and acknowledge the validity of our lived experience and our potential to learn, grow and lead.
This is where we live and this is how we survive. The conditions we have to endure may be harsh but the resilience, strength and determination of our people make home a beautiful place.

Due to the closing of schools following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, it seemed like the virus forced us to trade our education for domestic chores.

UN REPAS CHAUD. Comme les écoles ont fermé à cause de la pandémie de COVID-19, il semblerait que le virus nous a obligés à troquer notre éducation pour des tâches domestiques.

Photograph by: Jackson Mbanila, KYCTV Zimbabwe
Location: CROWBROUGH, HARARE
@f.b EmjayJunio
It is becoming more and more common for the youth in rural areas to move out of their village in search of greener pastures, causing cities to swell beyond control.

Children in rural areas dream of living and working in cities. Many of our children work hard to achieve this, leaving happy parents behind. Parents of those that work in cities often feel privileged and command a form of respect in their own village.

Unfortunately, this influx of people is putting pressure on overcrowded cities. Houses are becoming much more expensive – the only cheaper, affordable houses are in the slums. And new houses are being built on top of the existing ones, filling every empty space.

It is estimated that over 3,000,000 million people migrate to the cities for greener pastures on a weekly basis. A big number of these people end up in slums. 60% of the population in Nairobi are living in informal settlements.

To accommodate the influx, informal settlements are swelling and stretching rapidly. Some houses have even been built on wetlands. This is not sitting well with the Government (both County and National Government), with evictions ordered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This trend has serious implications to the economy and climate. It also means that slum dwellers have to keep on scrambling for resources, which are becoming even more scarce.

On the other hand, a lot of new developments are popping up, and as a slum dweller, I am excited about this. We need good and proper sanitation, better housing, infrastructure and equal opportunities for all. All I don't know is whether the development will displace me and whether the government cares about my shelter.

Houses versus structures

60% of Nairobi's population live in slums and, every day, these slums receive new residents from the rural areas. At the same time, in the same city, more structures are coming up every day. But these structures are not meant for slum dwellers; they are built to be used by the rich.
Meanwhile, the slum dwellers are still in need of good and affordable housing. Cities should not have more structures than there are houses.

**Poverty penalty**

slum living is much more expensive than people think, especially with regards to the cost of basic needs. We pay to access toilets, showers and bathroom facilities. One jerry can of clean tap water can cost up to 20 Kenyan Shillings (about 0.18 USD), and many struggle to afford this. To top it off, the cases of gender based violence are always increasing, and it is prevalent when it comes to clean water. We have water vendors take advantage of girls and women who cannot afford the water.

**Inclusion in slum upgrading**

Informal settlement developments are often decided on for us, without us. Various governments have turned a blind eye to and ignored the needed relocation process.

In the wake of city beautification and infrastructure development we have seen thousands get displaced and left with nowhere to go. We do need better services, infrastructure and housing – but please don’t leave me homeless. Show me where I should settle while I look for alternative housing options.

Governments should come up with a clear framework of how to relocate people affected by a new development through a relocation allocation process. Engage the community in any development and research the area to see who will be affected.

Before thinking of a smart city, countries need to prioritise housing protection.
The Lagos waterfront communities were built in response to the lack of available land for housing. Our wooden shacks on stilts crowd together over the lagoon. We use walkways and small boats to transport people, goods and water to our homes. Despite many of us having lived here all our lives, this vibrant place is seen as an illegal settlement by the government, and violent forced evictions have become commonplace, often with very little notice – leaving us with nowhere to go.

Photograph by: A.S Elijah
Nigeria Federation Media Team
Location: Makoko, Lagos, Nigeria
@ as_elijah
Telling our own stories is one of the mechanisms of advocating for our settlements. This is because it brings out the emotions and feelings from the individuals thus enabling Advocacy campaigns which vary from need to need, depending on the priorities of the community. All we want for our communities is change for the better. – Joan Beatrice Anioka

Raconter nos histoires fait partie des mécanismes de plaidoyer pour nos bidonvilles. Dans nos récits, on retrouve les émotions et les réactions des gens ce qui permet à nos campagnes de sensibilisation d’être adaptées aux besoins des communautés différentes selon leurs priorités. Ce que nous désirons pour nos communautés est tout simplement un changement pour le meilleur. – Joan Beatrice Anioka
Losing your eyesight can be devastating even at old age. People who are close to you distance themselves and even family members might treat you differently because they see you as a burden. After losing her eyesight Angela Nzilani went through an extremely difficult time trying to accept the fact that she would never see light again. The only people who came to her rescue were Community Health Volunteers. Now she is one of them herself, and has a clear message to the world:

“If you see a person living with disability, don’t see the disability but see their ability. We are normal people. Stop referring to us by our disability. “My name is Angela Mailu Nzilani. I am a community health volunteer, mother of two kids and grandmother of one. I am totally blind, though I wasn’t born so. At the age of 23, on the 18th of August 2005 to be exact, I had a very severe headache. Within two days I had become partially blind. I was left with one eye which wasn’t seeing properly. It took me one month to see a doctor because I was in the village and had to be brought to Nairobi for treatment. Unfortunately it was too late by then, the doctor said nothing could be done. Three years later I was involved in an accident and became totally blind. That same year I underwent an operation and my left eye was completely removed.”

A LA RECHERCHE DES COMPETENCES.
Perdre la vue, c’est bouleversant même à un âge avancé. Les personnes qui vous sont proches commencent à mettre de la distance et même les membres de votre famille finissent parfois par vous traiter d’une autre manière parce que pour eux vous devenez un fardeau. Quand Angela Nzilani a perdu la vue, elle est passée par une période extrêmement difficile pendant laquelle elle essayait d’accepter le fait qu’elle ne verrait plus jamais. Les seules personnes intervenues étaient des agents de santé communautaire bénévoles. C’est ce qu’elle-même est devenue et elle a un message très clair pour le monde:

“Si vous voyez une personne qui a un handicap, ne regardez pas le handicap mais concentrez-vous plutôt sur ses compétences. Nous sommes des êtres normaux. Arrêtez de nous appeler selon nos handicaps.

“Je m’appelle Angela Mailu Nzilani. Je suis agent de santé communautaire bénévole, mère de deux enfants et grand-mère d’un petit. Je suis totalement aveugle mais je ne suis pas née ainsi. A l’âge de 23 ans, le 18 août 2005 en fait, j’ai eus mal à la tête. En 2 jours j’étais partiellement aveugle. Il ne me restait qu’un œil avec lequel je ne pouvais pas bien voir. Ça m’a pris un mois avant de pouvoir consulter un médecin parce que j’étais au village et il a fallu m’amener à Nairobi pour le traitement. Malheureusement il était déjà trop tard, le médecin a dit qu’on ne pouvait plus rien faire. Trois ans plus tard j’ai eu un accident et c’est là que je suis devenue complètement aveugle. Cette année-là, je me suis fait opérée et mon œil gauche a été enlevé.”
The water in the streets of George Compound stood idle for days after the floods came. Poor drainage, or an absence of it, meant that our homes, schools and clinics were waterlogged. This is just a symptom of a bigger problem: a lack of proper planning for the expanding city; and worse – a lack of upgrading to parts of the city not recognised as formal settlements. That is why we need to organise and mobilise ourselves through savings groups. When a community is unified it is more able to negotiate in-situ upgrades.

DE L’EAU GASPILLEE. Dans les rues du compound de George, l’eau a stagné pendant des journées entières après les inondations. A cause du manque de drainage ou même de son absence totale, nos maisons, écoles et cliniques étaient gorgées d’eau. Ceci n’est qu’un symptôme d’un problème plus sérieux : un manque de planification adéquate pour une ville qui grandit mais le pire et la non-réhabilitation des quartiers n’étant pas reconnus comme des bidonvilles formels. C’est pour cela que nous devons nous organiser et nous mobiliser par le biais de groupes d’épargne. Lorsqu’une communauté est unie, elle est mieux placée pour négocier la modernisation de ses lieux.
Free clean communal water sources and tapped water is an essential basic need for every Ugandan. In slums we often have to walk far every day just to fetch water from a well point or buy it from a dealer and then carry it all the way back home. The girl child is often designated water carrier eating into their school and play time.

**DES BESOINS DE PREMIERE NECESITE.** Parmi les besoins de première nécessité de tout Ougandais nous devons compter des sources d'eau communautaire propre et de l'eau courante. Dans les quartiers pauvres, nous devons souvent marcher de longues distances chaque jour pour aller chercher de l'eau d'un puit ou l'acheter d'un agent et la rapporter jusque chez nous. D'habitude c'est la tâche des filles de porter l'eau et cela réduit le temps qu'elles peuvent passer à l'école ou à jouer.
Many of my friends choose to escape the harsh realities of this life through drugs. It’s a dead end. Keep hope and choose life.

SANS ISSUE. J’ai beaucoup d’amis qui choisissent la drogue comme échappatoire à cause de la dure réalité de cette vie. C’est sans issue. Gardez l’espoir, choisissez la vie.
We work hard to feed our families and to survive. We have no choice but to adapt and innovate and this is why the world needs to listen. We have the problems, but we also have the solutions.

Not many women work in metal fabrication but women are just as capable. Here Zambian Federation women learn by making a community water tank stand as part of their jobs training.

DEFIER LES NORMES: Peu de femmes travaillent dans la fabrication du métal mais elles en sont tout à fait capables. Ici, les femmes de la Fédération Zambienne ont appris en fabriquant un réservoir d’eau communautaire durant leur formation au travail.

Photograph by: Michael Chanda (the Poet), KYCTV Zambia
Location: CHIPATA, LUSAKA
@Mac_tarvish_Innovations/ F.b MacTavish
The COVID-19 pandemic has changed life as we know it. Many of us had a tough time adapting while others were able to transition to living with the new normal. Khadija tells us about her business and how she was able to cope with the pandemic.
Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Khadija Aminu Abdullahi Bako, I live in Lagos but I am from Katsina state, Nigeria. I am the CEO of Noor Skincare (online store) and Sandwich Hub (online café). I’m a young person trying to build my life whilst struggling with anxiety issues. I am driven by my desire to be self-dependent.

As a youth, how has the pandemic affected you?

When the pandemic lockdown started, I was not worried, at first thinking it wouldn’t last long. I thought I would have more time to rest and focus on my business, which was just Sandwich Hub then. The pandemic didn’t really bother me because I took the COVID-19 preventive measures seriously. Even at home, we always wear our nose masks when going out, we always use hand sanitisers, keep social distances and I really don’t go out much.

How do you combine your business with education?

I am a year 4 student studying Law at the Bayero University, Kano. The struggle with schooling and running a business is not an easy one. Most times I employ others to run my business page and my business sometimes. My parents also support me in both my business and education.

What are your hopes for the future?

I have high hopes for the future and I believe everything will be OK. We are all doing our part in our own little ways to make the world a better place. I wish to expand my business by having a virtual shop for my Noor Skincare and a Café for my Sandwich Hub.

What did you do with the time off during the pandemic?

Dealing with my skin problem at the peak of the lockdown, I used the time to learn how to make organic skincare products. From there, my second business, Noor Skincare, started. Now the business is more than a year old and still thriving. So I would say the pandemic had a positive outcome for me because it pushed me to further build myself.

Any advice for the people out there?

My advice to others is for everybody to keep pushing, keep challenging yourself, and do what you love, because I believe what is meant for you will never miss you. And stay safe.
"There was a time during Fashola’s regime that the Task Force came with their Black Maria to take (arrest) everyone trading in the market. Someone I know told them to leave me, but they collected N10,000 from other street traders. They carried them inside the Black Maria and locked the door. They took people’s goods and didn’t release them. I have five children. I’m feeding them from what I’m selling."

"Durant le régime de Fashola, les Forces d’Intervention sont venues avec leur Black Maria pour ramasser (arrêter) tous les gens qui vendaient au marché. Je connais quelqu’un qui leur a dit de partir mais ils ont pris 10,000N des autres marchands de rue. Ils les ont mis dans le Black Maria et enfermés à clé. Ils ont pris les biens des gens, les ont confisqués. J’ai cinq enfants. C’est par mes ventes que je fais vivre mes enfants."

#3 Feeding my family
In Freetown, Sierra Leone, children as young as 3 years old are working at mines to put food on the table. Here, our children have the brutal job of breaking down big rocks into gravel. Often, as in this photo, the children have no protective clothing and no shoes, and are prone to extreme injuries. After all, this type of work is tough even for adults. The gravel is sold to construction companies for as little as USD 1 per large plastic tub, but sales are not consistent and therefore our children don't always get paid for what they produce. A few of our working children also go to school. Despite primary school itself being free, money is needed to pay for basics like uniforms, books, pens and transport. As a result, many of us use the money made from rock-breaking to pay for the costs needed for our kids to go to school.

CASSEURS DE PIERRES.
A Freetown au Sierra Leone, même des enfants de 3 ans travaillent dans les mines pour nourrir leurs familles. Ici, nos enfants ont un travail brutal, celui de casser des grosses pierres pour en faire du gravier. Comme sur cette photo, il arrive souvent que les enfants n’aient ni vêtements de protection, ni chaussures et ils sont vulnérables à des accidents sérieux. En fait, ceci est déjà un travail rude pour les adultes. Le gravier est vendu à des compagnies de construction à seulement 1 dollar américain pour une grosse bassine. Les ventes ne sont pas garanties alors les enfants ne sont pas toujours payés pour ce qu’ils produisent. Quelques des enfants qui vont au travail vont aussi à l’école. L’école primaire est gratuite mais le paiement des uniformes, livres, stylos et le transport nécessite tout de même de l’argent. Pour finir, beaucoup d’entre nous utilisons l’argent des pierres pour les dépenses scolaires pour nos enfants.
This entrepreneur in Kisumu, Kenya, makes a living fixing cell phones. He found an innovative way to keep afloat using his flair for electronics despite the lack of support for small business in our country.

L'ENTREPRENARIAT.
Cet entrepreneur à Kisumu au Kenya gagne sa vie en réparant des téléphones portables. Dans son pays, malgré le peu de soutien offert aux petites entreprises, il a trouvé une manière innovative de s’en sortir par son talent pour tout ce qui est électronique.
The harsh economy in Zimbabwe has forced many of us to look for any alternative to earning a living. Here a youth pans for gold that he will sell on the black market.

L’OR. Au Zimbabwe, le problème de l’économie a obligé beaucoup de personnes à chercher des alternatives pour gagner leur vie. Voici un jeune qui cherche de l’or à la batée qu’il revendra au marché.
This shopkeeper's clothes are as dirty as the front of his shop is oily, but to him, it means bread on the table. "I might look dirty in the eyes but from the dirt I am feeding my family and I am proud of it," he says, happy with what he has.

UN GAGNE-PAIN HONNETE.
Les vêtements de ce boutiquier sont aussi sales que la devanture huileuse de son magasin mais pour lui c'est son gagne-pain. "Vous voyez peut-être de la saleté sur moi mais c'est cette même saleté qui fait que je peux nourrir ma famille et j'en suis fier," dit-il car il est heureux de ce qu'il a.
How do we tackle food insecurity in slums? The answer: from the ground up, literally. We have started taking control of our own food sources (and health) by growing vegetables close to home. This also provides a potential source of income, as excess produce and seeds can be sold to the surrounding community. To city government officials, it shows how we are not part of the problem, but rather part of the solution.

SE METTRE AU VERT. Comment allons-nous gérer avec l’insécurité alimentaire dans les taudis? La réponse: Grâce à la terre. Nous avons commencé à contrôler nos propres ressources alimentaires (et de notre santé) en faisant pousser des légumes près de nos maisons. Ainsi nous avons aussi une possibilité de revenus car l’excédent de notre production et les graines peuvent être revendus aux communautés qui nous environnent. Les autorités municipales peuvent donc voir que nous ne sommes pas la cause du problème mais plutôt celle de la solution.

Photograph by:
Michael Chanda (MacTavish the Poet), KYCTV Zambia
Location: LUSAKA
@Mac_tarvish_ Innovations / F.b MacTavish
“My name is Tina Conteh, I am 23 years old. Most people in this community discriminate against people with disabilities, oftentimes we are left out in decision making processes and getting employment is also tough. There was a time I applied to work in one of the hotels in Freetown, when the manager saw me, he was critical and said I can’t do the job because I am disabled and the job requires me to climb stairs. I felt bad but I was determined so I told him to test me which he consented. I was able to visit all the floors in the hotel, it was painful but I had to endure because I needed the job. In the end he did not give me the job. I was sad and I know this is what disabled people go through in this country. One thing I know for sure, my disability is not an inability.”

“Je m’appelle Tina Conteh, j’ai 23 ans. La plupart des gens de cette communauté ont des préjugés sur les personnes qui ont des handicaps et souvent nous ne sommes pas inclus dans les prises de décision et il nous est difficile de trouver du boulot. Un jour j’ai fait une demande d’emploi dans un hôtel de Freetown et quand le gérant m’a vu il était négatif et m’a dit que je ne pouvais pas faire ce travail parce que j’étais handicapée et que dans ce poste il fallait que je monte des marches. Je me suis sentie mal mais je suis obstinée alors je lui ai demandé de me tester et il a accepté. J’ai réussi à aller à tous les étages de l’hôtel. C’était douloureux mais je l’ai fait parce que j’avais besoin de ce boulot. Et finalement, il ne m’a pas donné le boulot, j’étais bien triste et je sais que c’est ce par quoi passe toutes les personnes de ce pays qui ont un handicap. Mais ce que je sais est que mon handicap n’est pas une incapacité.”
This is what change looks like. It’s sometimes slow, sometimes difficult but always inevitable. We know that there are no things under this sun that will not change and we put our faith in unity, our strength.

The federation believes in developing their lives one brick at a time. In this image, a brick is laid for a house in Ituyeni by Mr Nahas Angula, the chairperson of COSDEF, together with Derek Klazen, Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development. We build houses through savings, learning exchanges, and community participation in partnership with the Government, local authorities and stakeholders.

METTRE EN PLACE LES FONDATIONS. Au sein de la fédération nous croyons que nous devons bâtir nos vies une brique à la fois. Sur cette image, une brique est posée pour une maison de Ituyeni par M. Nahas Angula, le président de COSDEF, qui est avec Derek Klazen le vice-ministre du Développement Rural et Urbain. Nous construisons des maisons grâce à nos épargnes, aux échanges d’apprentissage et à la participation de la communauté en partenariat avec le gouvernement, les autorités locales et les décideurs.

Photograph by: Imelda Munika, KYCTV
Location: HAVANA, WINDHOEK
F. b Imelda Munika
Some of us found out in a hard way
That life after school is not as easy
As our teachers claimed it would be
It's way too rough and complicated
For some of us life didn't go as we hoped
After we matriculated
It seems like the cycle of broken dreams
Has once again circulated
Some of us haven't reached a better life
While some of us
Have successfully penetrated

Some are graduates
But can't find any jobs
Because they're well educated
We used to dream big all together in class
But shit has been hard since we separated
Some are doing well for themselves
While others are underrated
Some are getting love and respect
While others are unsuccessful and hated

Dear ex classmates
When you bump into me at the streets
Don't expect to see
The me I used to be in class
Some are happy
While some of us are broken like glass
This life thing is too unpredictable
And very unstable
Some are parents now
And working in retail stores
Just to put food on the table
Some are able to provide for themselves
In this community-powered home building process, trained women from the federation take the lead. By using economies of scale through bulk purchasing of negotiated construction materials, community-based housing approaches significantly reduce the overall landing costs of housing units and other buildings (as compared to using private contractors). Additionally, the costs are reduced through the sweat equity provided by the community in aspects such as making their own bricks, surveying their own land and digging trenches for laying water and sewer pipes.

**#1 Brick by brick**

UNE BRIQUE A LA FOIS. Dans ce processus de construction de maison initié par la communauté, les femmes formées de la fédération prennent les devants. Nous pratiquons l’économie d’échelle en achetant les matériaux de construction en gros qui ont été négociés au préalable. Cette approche de logement communautaire permet de réduire fortement le coût de chaque unité d’habitation et autres bâtiments (en comparaison aux entrepreneurs en bâtiment privés). De plus, les coûts sont aussi réduits par l’apport des compétences de la communauté sur plusieurs aspects tels que la fabrication de briques, l’arpentage de leur propre terrain et les excavations pour les tuyaux de canalisation pour l’eau et les égouts.

**Photograph by:** Michael Chanda (Mac Tavish the Poet), KYCTV Zambia

**Location:** GEORGE COMPOUND, LUSAKA

@Mac_tarvish_ Innovations/
F.b MacTavish
A peaceful protest is held by persons living with disabilities (PLWD) at The Lagos State House of Assembly following the sudden blanket ban on keke and okada (tricycles and motorbikes). As popular transportation modes in Nigeria, these vehicles have become a major source of income for many of us, including PLWD. This ban left many Lagosians stranded at bus stops across the State and decimated the livelihoods and investments of those involved in lawful and useful transportation businesses.

**DES MOYENS DE SUBSISTANCE MENACES.** Des personnes qui vivent avec un handicap ont manifesté devant l’Assemblée de l’État de Lagos suite à l’interdiction générale d’utilisation des keke et okada (tricycles et motos). Étant des moyens de transport populaires au Nigeria, ces véhicules font un grand apport de revenus pour beaucoup d’entre nous dont les personnes vivant avec un handicap. A cause de cette interdiction, beaucoup de citoyens et citoyennes de Lagos se sont retrouvés bloqués à des arrêts de bus à travers le pays et les revenus ont été décimés ainsi que le capital de beaucoup qui étaient impliqués dans ce secteur de transport légal.
Federation members attend a savings group meeting in Lusaka, Zambia. When women take part in community savings groups, the quality of the process and the probability of sustainable change is significantly improved. Regardless of their income or status, the women that form part of these groups have the power to create a consolidated voice for bringing about real change.

Within our federations, savings groups serve as building blocks for community institutions. In turn, this enables us to address and invest resources in issues that affect our entire community or city, stretching beyond those of livelihoods alone.

DE L’ARGENT HONNETE. Les membres de la Fédération participent à une réunion de leur groupe d’épargne à Lusaka en Zambie. Lorsque les femmes participent aux groupes d’épargne communautaires, la qualité du processus et ses chances de succès durable sont agrandies. Peu importe leurs revenus ou statut, les femmes qui font partie d’un groupe ont le pouvoir d’établir une représentation unifiée et d’apporter un changement réel.

Au sein de nos fédérations, les groupes d’épargne servent de point d’attache parmi les institutions de la communauté. Et en échange, cela nous permet de réagir et d’investir des ressources envers les problèmes qui affectent toute la communauté ou la ville, allant au-delà de la subsistance.

Photograph by: Michael Chanda (Mac Tavish the Poet), KYCTV Zambia
Location: GEORGE COMPOUND, LUSAKA
@Mac_tarvish_Innovations/ F.b MacTavish
Through saving, members learn that they are stakeholders in their own development. Every Sunday savings groups are required to meet and check their savings. This is Thresia Nangolo’s saving book. She is a self-employed, single parent who has ambitious dreams of owning a formal house one day. She is an informal trader who sells goods on the street to provide for her children. The little that she’s left with, she takes for saving. She is part of the Nokondo savings group, which is led by women and most of them want proper housing for their children.

CHAQUE PIECE COMPTE. Par les épargnes, les membres de la communauté découvrent qu’ils sont les acteurs de leur propre développement. Chaque groupe d’épargne se retrouve le dimanche et fait les comptes. Voici le livret d’épargne de Thresia Nangolo. Elle travaille à son propre compte et est une mère célibataire qui a le rêve ambitieux de devenir un jour propriétaire d’une maison formelle. Elle est commerçante informelle et vend des produits inférieurs pour subvenir aux besoins de ses enfants. C’est le peu qu’il lui reste qu’elle amène au groupe d’épargne. Elle fait partie au groupe Nokondo qui est dominé par des femmes dont la majorité veulent un logement adéquat pour leurs enfants.
To combat food insecurity, slumdwellers in Sierra Leone receive training on urban backyard gardening using permaculture techniques. The technique looks at conserving soil and water by relying on organic farming methods, it provides households with an alternative skill of growing their own food in a way that is affordable. Any extra produce can get sold for an extra income.

**PRENDRE RACINE.** Pour lutter contre l’insécurité alimentaire, des habitants de taudis au Sierra Leone ont été formés en techniques de permaculture pour jardins urbains en arrière-cour. Ces techniques ont pour objectif de conserver la terre et l’eau en utilisant des méthodes de cultivation organique et offrent aux foyers des compétences alternatives pour acquérir de la nourriture de manière abordable. Tout produit en surplus peut être revendu pour gagner plus d’argent.
Slum dwellers grow food in their neighbourhood at the centre of Nairobi, ensuring an economically viable income for their households whilst putting food on the table.

Kibera’s urban farmers face some serious challenges. The city is underdeveloped, with no formal water supply, and – to make things worse – rain has become more unpredictable due to climate change. These factors have made it necessary for urban farmers to plant crops on river banks to ensure a source of water for sustaining the plants. Moreover, the fact that these farmers normally don’t own any land means they could be evicted or forcibly removed at any time – cutting them off from their vital food production activities and income source.

**FAIRE POUSSER TOUT SEUL.** Des habitants des taudis font pousser leur nourriture dans leur quartier au centre de Nairobi ce qui garantit un revenu viable pour leurs foyers tout en ayant de quoi manger.

Les fermiers urbains de Kibera font face à des sérieux défis. La ville est sous-développée sans aménagement d’eau et ce qui empire la situation est que les pluies sont imprévisibles à cause du changement climatique. Ces facteurs font qu’il est essentiel pour les fermiers urbains de semer leurs cultures au bord des rivières pour avoir accès à de l’eau pour abreuver les plantes. Le fait que ces fermiers ne sont généralement pas propriétaires de leurs terrains signifie qu’ils peuvent être chassés ou obligés de déménager à n’importe quel moment – ceci les coupe de leurs activités de production et de leurs sources de revenus.
One day that car will move and that mic will be on – but for now, all he can do is dream. For now, music takes us to the places we dream of. For now, music silences the world and our worries.

LES TALENTS AU ZIM. Un jour cette voiture pourra se déplacer et le micro sera allumé mais pour l’instant il doit continuer à rêver. La musique nous transporte dans tous les lieux dont nous rêvons. La musique fait taire le monde et nos soucis.
SAFER PUBLIC TRANSPORT. Federation volunteers launch the “Safety Champions” initiative in order to sensitisise the community when it comes to issues of safety and COVID-19. The Safety Champions are working with the Zimbabwe United Passengers Company to help reduce the spread of the virus.

Photograph by: Melina Sibandza, KYCTV Zimbabwe
Location: PUMULA, BULAWAYO

All living things need rest to recharge and draw strength for the new day. We laugh, tell stories, enjoy music and then life is good.

#1 Listen!

It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten. Listen to your grandmothers and grandfathers.

Il n’est pas mauvais de retourner vers ce que nous avons oublié. Ecoutez vos grand-mères et grand-pères

Photograph by: Abdul-fatawu Mamudu, KYCTV Ghana
Location: TAMALE, ACCRA
Instagram: @DirectorMudah
GREEN IS THE COLOUR OF HOPE. More than 400 backyard gardens were established by the Shack Dwellers Federation members in Windhoek. Various informal settlements and more than 300 households received training on nutrition, the importance of eating healthy food and breastfeeding. The aim is to eat healthy and make a living by selling the fruits and vegetables to those that don’t have gardens.

"I am so grateful to be part of SDFN, because through the federation I got a chance to be trained on how to do backyard gardening. During COVID-19 I started my home backyard garden from where I am able to feed my family. I started selling vegetables (swiss chard, spinach, kale, lettuce, tomatoes, and chilli) and some seedlings for fruits (guava, paw-paw, mangoes and many more) from my garden to friends and family and to the community members. Apart from the garden I started a business of selling vegetables seeds to other people too, so they can also start their own gardens."– Foibe Sakaria
Only hard work can change your stumbling blocks to stepping stones.

C'est seulement travailler dur qui va transformer vos obstacles en marches pour vous élever.

#3 Big Dreams

Photograph by:
Kingjoy Sibanda,
KYCTV Zimbabwe
Location:
BULAWAYO
@signalhubmedia/
 f.b signal hub media
The most eminent colours are red, green and blue but our culture is a vast colourful spectrum. During the masquerade we move to the beat of the drums, as the ones before us have done; with intricate footwork we fling dust in the air. This is our heritage.
With one person balancing upside down on top of the head of the person below them, these street performers show the highest level of trust and brotherhood. A mesmerising feat of human agility, they defy gravity in their jaw dropping act in the streets of Harare.

CONTRER LA GRAVITE.
Lorsqu’une personne à l’envers se tient en équilibre sur la tête d’une autre, les artistes des rues démontrent une confiance et un lien formidable. Cet exploit nous fait voir la beauté de l’agilité humaine et ces gens qui défilent dans les rues de Harare défient la gravité.
Insight

Young people are the hope of this world. We are not afraid, we will not give up. There is so much to inspire and take hope from right now. Don’t let the hugeness of all our problems dissuade you from making a small difference in your life. It is important.
THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS. Although the lives of the youth are filled with uncertainties following the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important for the youth to be reminded that hope lies in dexterity and if they are resilient, they will overcome all obstacles.

LE FUTUR NOUS APPARTIENT. Malgré que suite à la pandémie de Covid les jeunes font face à moins de certitudes sur la vie, il reste important pour les jeunes de se rappeler que l’espoir est lié à la dextérité et que s’ils continuent à être résilients ils surmonteront tous les obstacles.

We need to face our fears
Even when tears do not silence it..
What are we here for?
We need the world to hear!!
We need the world to change!!
Let us test the formation of what we can create..
Relate our stories with what people cannot erase.
Evolve to involve the best of us in every single moment of what our lives can picture
Let us frame our world, marking our strides with the depth of reaching out with elusive joy to all that we capture.
#1,2 Shadow play

"Ziva kwawabwa kwaunoenda husiku."
Angels are real and they don’t all come with wings. Some just come with a halo of light... Thank God for cameras, because I get to show you how I see the world. In Zimbabwe we have an ancient proverb: “Ziva kwawabva kwaunoenda husiku.” It basically translates to: “Know where you come from, because where you are going is a mystery to all.”

**JEUX D’OMBRES.** Les anges existent et certains n’ont pas d’ailes. Certains n’ont qu’un halo lumineux... Je remercie Dieu pour les appareils photos parce qu’ils me permettent de vous montrer comment j’interprète le monde. Au Zimbabwe, nous avons un vieux proverbe qui dit: “Ziva kwawabva kwaunoenda husiku.” Sa traduction est: “Tu dois savoir d’où tu viens car là où tu vas est un mystère pour tous.”
A new media ecosystem is emerging, and with it great opportunities. More and more people now have access to free and diverse information. Let’s use this access to tell the stories of our people, to show that we are more than statistics, that we dream and work and bring about change.

UNE IMAGINATION A TOUTE AILE
Il y a un nouveau écosystème dans les médias qui nous apporte toutes sortes d’opportunités. Maintenant de plus en plus de personnes ont accès à des informations gratuites et diversifiées. Profitons de cet accès pour partager nos récits avec les gens et pour montrer que nous sommes plus que des statistiques. Nous avons des rêves et nous travaillons pour amener le changement.
Support NGO’s in participating countries

ACTGETHER UGANDA

NIGERIAN SLUM / INFORMAL SETTLEMENT FEDERATION

FSH Fédération Sénégalaise des Habitants

Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia supported by Namibia Housing Action Group

MUUNGANO wa wana vijiji

PPHPZ People’s Process on Housing and Poverty in Zambia

jej

ONG urbaSEN
SDI is a federation of the urban poor active in 527 cities at last count, mobilized through 8871 savings groups representing over 380,000 households. We are proudly women led with youth at the centre. 

Know Your City TV is a program of SDI. We are a collective of young media makers who happen to live in slums. We make media with a message because we know the future of the world is urban and our cities belong to all who dwell in them.