You can't take away my joy
You can't take away my hope
Cos ago day here for tomorrow
So don't leave me out becos am young
Ebi like say you don't understand me
Ebi like say u don't love me
I'd like to say I can't be undermined
I wanna tell you that...
We are an alliance with a focus on youth development that unites YMCA in 21 countries in Africa (16 of which are very active) and promotes cooperation within the continent and the worldwide YMCAs family.

Shared vision
To empower young people for the African Renaissance

Shared values
Unity and inclusiveness: Based on our Christian faith, we proactively build positive inter-generation and inter-faith relations which are embedded on the underlying principles of respect and acceptance.

Responsibility: Striving for the empowerment of youth in Africa, our transformational volunteer-led leadership approach ensures long-term individual and community impact.

Accountability: We hold ourselves responsible and answerable to the youth of the continent and our stakeholders for managing our movement to achieve our shared vision.

Self-determining: We strive to be sustainable and self-regulatory to ensure our social responsiveness and relevance.

Integrity: We commit to open and transparent decision-making and implementation processes, and consistent policies and actions.

Mission
Based on our Christian values, we aspire to develop young people for the holistic transformation of their communities, nation and the continent.

The African YMCA movement believes in the potential of youth as active citizens. We believe that youth can transform themselves, and that they are the most important influence on other youth. We believe our young people can play a positive role in transforming Africa.

Our Subject to Citizen (S2C) initiative transforms youth from subjects to citizens with rights and responsibilities, and whose abilities ensure they have a stake in decisions that affect them. In 2010, African YMCA movements united around S2C and the S2C message was spread throughout the global movement.

The Africa Alliance of YMCA (AAYMCA) represents the oldest and largest pan-African NGO network on the continent. Our African YMCA serve about one million members and about five million beneficiaries each year, the majority of these being youth and women from low-income families and communities. The AAYMCA offers unique institutional development and programme collaboration opportunities across national, religious and ethnic boundaries.

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It's time for Africa... the words of the catchy Shakira/Freshlyground song to mark the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ on African soil were apt for us in the African YMCA movement in 2010. It's time for Africa... from our Subject to Citizen (S2C) programme and leadership development, to our shared commitment at our Ordinary General Meeting and Partnership Summit to our impactful participation in Africa. Our time has come.

Looking back
During 2010, we reflected on our achievements of the strategic period 2007-2010. Remaining true to our strategic direction we set, we had built a united African YMCA Movement. It was built around a shared vision and a common identity of youth focus, African-ness and ecumenism. Out of this, S2C was born: our flagship social change initiative for which we are known globally, and on which the worldwide movement is building many of their civic participation models. We consolidated trust in the African YMCA family, as evidenced in developing a strong brand, reflected in a shared logo. National Movements aligned themselves to agreed sustainability categories. We also achieved much in strengthening and institutionalising leadership development of staff and volunteers, paying particular attention to individual youth development in this regard under the S2C Ambassador initiative.

Assessing the situation
All this combined, made us realise we were reaching the ‘tipping point’ to mainstream S2C throughout the movement as a model of operations and strategy, as well as a programmatic change initiative.

S2C is like a ‘social epidemic’. Young people who encounter S2C are either converted or become fanatics, whether they are in a rural village in Zimbabwe or the cities of Norway. To us, the ‘stickiness’ of this idea is a sign that we are approaching the ‘tipping point’. Change is never driven by the multitudes – it rests on the bold action of a few. We see this throughout history. We have few National Movements implementing S2C, but with them, through the ‘law of the few’, we will take the African YMCA to the ‘tipping point’ and then transform the continent. We now move forward boldly to position both the Alliance and National Movements to take up a leadership role in social change in the continent and in the worldwide YMCA movement.

Looking forward
To respond to this, the new AAYMCA strategic plan concerns moving forward swiftly. Our time is now to implement S2C and to do so, the secretariat was reorganised so the AAYMCA will serve as a ‘technical house’ whose officers service specific needs of the National Movements.

MESSAGE
FROM THE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL SECRETARY

James Ekow Rhule          Carlos Madjri Sanvee
President           General Secretary

The Tipping point: how little things can make a big difference

At the Zonal level, the co-ordination and capacity development of its structures will shift from the AAYMCA to/for National Movements.

We thank the African YMCA movements for renewing trust in empowering young people for the African Renaissance and for their efforts to make this happen. We thank your partners for believing in us and working with us, our external funders for seeing value in us and for supporting us.

To the youth in our movement, the achievements during this time period will be your legacy to the youth who are still to come and we salute you for your central participation in S2C and for taking the lead.

Our time has indeed come! We are marching into a new phase in our history and we do so with conviction that we are on the right path to serve the youth in Africa.
THE RE-BIRTH OF THE AFRICAN
By Caleb Atovisi

If you have no confidence in the self, you are twice defeated in the race of life. With both this and the former fact before you have started. - Marcus Garvey

Many black artists from singer Robert Nesta Marley (Bob Marley) to novelist and playwright to Ngugi wa Thiong’o have started. - Marcus Garvey

Youth in Africa

So don’t leave me out becos am young
I’d like to say I can’t be undermined
Cos ago day here for tomorrow
You can’t take away my joy

If you have no confidence in the self, you are twice defeated in the race of life. With both this and the former fact before you have started. - Marcus Garvey

"I’d like to say I can’t be undermined
Cos ago day here for tomorrow
You can’t take away my joy"

The youth's mental train must be arrested before it drives industry. These perpetuate neo-colonialism. These young people are daily bombarded by stereotypes and propaganda on the soul. They grow up without mentors or role models. They are fed with negative energies that are destructive to both the spirit and the body. With rampant wars, civil strife, poverty, hunger, crime, the youth’s mental train must be arrested before it drives industry.

With Marcus Garvey's wisdom, it is time to repair that damage, for the youth's mental train must be arrested before it drives industry. This is the African Renaissance. It is this anger, they postulate, that will transform the self, the self-esteem, the confidence, you have won even before you were born. If you have no confidence in the self, you will not be able to think. You will not be able to act. You will not be able to create. If you have no confidence in the self, you will not be able to think.

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I’M A YOUTH WITH A DREAM, SO I WILL RISE UP, STAND UP AND FIGHT FOR MY RIGHTS, SO TAKE ME AS A PART OF U, DON’T SEE ME A SUBJECT, BUT A CITIZEN, AND TOGETHER WE WILL RISE

CIVIC ACTION

Our civic action equips youth with skills and develops their self-definition to advocate and influence change. When youth have the skills and confidence, they have voice. When they are represented and participate in decision-making forums, they exercise democratic spaces. When they combine voice and space, they have the ability to influence those with authority to make positive change that affects them. During 2010, through a project run in Liberia, Kenya and Zimbabwe, and funded by Swedish Mission Council, the following was achieved:

• A civic action curriculum was developed
• 25 change catalysts were trained at AAYMCA level
• Approximately 5,000 youth were reached in pilot countries of Kenya, Liberia and Zimbabwe

The success of civic action rests on youth driving it: training other youth, identifying issues that affect them, looking at solutions, mobilising youth support and communicating with and influencing decision-makers to make positive change for youth.

In Monrovia alone, the capital city, there are 17 Hi-Y clubs and a Renaissance club. Some of these youth had direct engagement with decision-makers:

“We made seven visits to parliament with 35 young people who observed parliamentary proceedings, took notes, and held discussions with legislators. These visits exposed young people to governance practices. Through this medium, we are empowering the youth to be able to engage with duty bearers in an effort to highlight the problems of young people for possible actions and solutions from government and other stakeholders.” - Alston Armah, S2C Ambassador, Liberia YMCA

As a result of its S2C efforts, the Liberia YMCA was one of the leading civil society organisations accredited by the National Elections Commission to conduct civic and voters’ education for the 2011 general and presidential elections in Liberia. It was also invited to participate in major training and consultative forums focused on civic education.

In Kenya, the 10 trained catalysts reached almost 2,000 youth across the country. Within the school system, 26 S2C Clubs were established in Mombasa between September and December. Outside the school system, youth are integrating the S2C activities in existing youth clubs that work closely with the YMCA. In Nakuru, for instance, they are working closely with Mvowie Youth Club, SCANN Youth Club and Uprising Sun Owners.

“I have initiated youth/adult mentorship sessions in Nakuru. The monthly ‘coffee bars’ at the branch with administrators of justice are extremely useful, as are the experience sharing sessions with young people in local churches. This has helped young people realise how important they are and how they can participate in bringing the change they need.” - John Baptister Wamukoya, S2C Ambassador, Kenya YMCA

Libera

CITIZENS MOVING FORWARD
When youth are empowered economically as wealth-creators, they are less vulnerable to exploitation and are more likely to be focused on building the nation and less likely on the temptation to give in to manipulation which seeks to destroy gains that have been made. This programme has a strong entrepreneurial slant and uses savings schemes, mentorships, and youth joint initiatives to ensure youth are in control of their economic future, are creative in sustainable income-generation, and assist other youth in economic endeavours. It is about collective youth buying power for individual and community/country improvement.

With the aim of establishing youth savings schemes and investment clubs, as well as entrepreneurship models that are transformative, research was conducted with 216 youth in Antananarivo and 198 in Fort Dauphin. There were three focus group in each site, with a total of 90 participants. While the research report was still being finalised during the period under review, two issues emerged as key: access to credit, and access to market and capacity gaps.

S2C leadership development entails recruiting and grooming transformational leaders for our communities and continent. Referred to as S2C Ambassadors, the participants in the programme undergo intensive training over a period of three years before graduating.

The journey for the first batch of S2C Ambassadors began at the Africa YMCA Youth Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the end of 2009. In May 2010, this continued when a group of Ambassadors and national movement youth leaders met in Accra, Ghana, prior to the Ordinary General Meeting and Partnership Meeting. While the gathering focused on institutional history and foundational imperatives for good leadership, these 45 youth also took part in the proceedings of both formal meetings, gaining invaluable insight and experience in leadership processes.

"The training was so important as it laid the foundations for us as youth. We are the frontline runners for the youth of Africa and the world, and so we need to be continuously skilled and trained and be especially conversant on leadership and historical information.”
 - Ricky Johnson, South Africa YMCA

Zimbabwe
Participatory Action Research was conducted in Zimbabwe, where 10 youth were trained as researchers in Bulawayo and another 10 in Kadoma. During the period under review, the report was being finalised, but research participants experienced much personal change.

"I am involved in orphans and HIV/AIDS, and when I was invited to the masculinity research part of the programme by a Bulawayo YMCA member, it seemed a good link. I think this programme is exciting as it is tackling issues that no-one else seems to be addressing. We talk about and work on AIDS, politics, TB... everyone sings these songs. But behind closed doors there are issues that are not being addressed and that actually affect all these other problems. What goes on behind the make-up, fancy cars, lovely houses; when all is still, what is happening behind closed doors at night? It was my first attendance at a YMCA programme. It was so interactive that I did not feel out of place, and I learnt a lot, especially about gender-based violence.

I am Ndebele and I remember my grandmother used to tell me that to make sure that my wife listens to me, I must slap her – just once – so she would know her place. I never saw this as violence as we were taught that this was ‘correction’. I learnt that this is not right. I also got to examine why as boys growing up, we were taught not to cry as it would make us seem weak.”
 - Raymond Mncube, Zimbabwe YMCA

ECONOMIC RENAISSANCE
When youth are empowered economically as wealth-creators, they are less vulnerable to exploitation and are more likely to be focused on building the nation and less likely to succumb to manipulating which seeks to destroy gains that have been made. This programme has a strong entrepreneurial slant and uses savings schemes, mentorships, and youth joint initiatives to ensure youth are in control of their economic future, are creative in sustainable income-generation, and assist other youth in economic endeavours. It is about collective youth buying power for individual and community/country improvement.

LEADERSHIP S2C AMBASSADORS
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Transformative masculinity enables young men to redefine, reorder and re-orient youth masculinity so it is positive and healthy for them, and so they can then engage with young women with dignity and sensitivity.
Youth resolutions

Under the leadership of youth, S2C was formally adopted as the model for developing and empowering the young people in the African YMCA movement. Youth resolutions centred on S2C roles and responsibilities for the Alliance, member movements, youth leaders and Ambassadors.

S2C Committee

As a direct consequence of formal S2C adoption, at the first meeting of the new Executive Committee for the period 2011-2014, a bold decision was taken. Instead of appointing a youth committee as has always been done, an S2C Committee was appointed to be chaired by the Youth Rep, Mutale Chanda.

"This is such an empowering step for us as youth. It gives real meaning to youth transformation. We deliberately decided to do something bold and different. Why have a youth committee in an organisation whose raison d’etre is youth? Instead, let the youth head up the flagship initiative and let us do so with support of our youth elders."

- Mutale Chanda, AAYMCA youth rep, from Zambia YMCA

The Africa YMCA Partnership Summit drew together 120 participants from Africa, Europe, United Kingdom and North America. This Summit generated a shared commitment of African YMCAs and their partners to take the YMCAs in Africa to the next level of efficiency and relevance for young people in the continent.

The Summit focused on renewing and strengthening relationships between Africa and international partners to ensure the vision and mission of African YMCAs are deepened and enhanced. Before the summit, a partnership survey was completed and analysed, and the findings guided summit discussions. Topics included programme development and effectiveness, leadership, human resources, communications, membership development and resource mobilisation.

"The summit provided a great opportunity to share experiences and discuss pressing issues facing many national YMCA movements. In my view, this type of event goes a long way to moving our vision of partnership forward - providing opportunities for sharing learning between movements; strengthening relations and communication between movements, the Africa Alliance and international partners; and crucially providing a space for new ideas on strengthened collaboration."

- Harriet Knox, Africa Manager, Y Care International.

The AAYMCA 9th Ordinary General Meeting took place after the Partnership Summit, from 2-9 May. The theme was also on partnerships, but looking inwardly at the successes within the continent. Over the strategic review period, YMCAs in Africa have deliberately worked to create a cohesive African YMCA movement.

"We have focused on strengthening the movement to ensure we have strong and vibrant YMCAs within different countries and hence a strong continental movement. We have measured ourselves against sustainability categories which we developed. Another measure has been through assessing how national movements have aligned themselves to our new vision and direction. Overall, in terms of the latest alignment survey, 59% of national movements have a strategic plan in line with the Alliance strategic plan, 64% have a constitution and bylaws, 97% have a Human Resource Development & Orientation Plan and 78% have a functional youth council."

- James Ekow Rhule, newly elected President for the Executive Committee of AAYMCA, and from Ghana YMCA

Deliberations, discussions and agreements centred around unifying approaches to youth development work in Africa to ensure youth are trained as transformational leaders and followers. To further ensure a cohesive continental movement, a shared logo was adopted as well as shared values.

"This is the culmination of a four-year branding process, which began with our shared vision to empower young people for the African Renaissance, and our core identity which is centred on our youth focus, African-ness and ecumenism."

- Evelyn Sami Sadio, newly elected Vice President, who headed up the branding process, and from Senegal YMCA

Two new movements were admitted as associate members to the Alliance: Côte d’Ivoire and Niger. This means that now formally part of the YMCA family, the AAYMCA works to ensure institutional development. The new Executive Committee has 11 members compared to 16 of the previous Committee, the average age dropped from 47 to 39 and there are now 46% women, compared to the previous 25%.

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
Nous sommes jeunes avec un rêve
Un besoin d’espace et de voix
Pour la Renaissance Africaine,
Aidez nous à mettre en valeur notre rêve

FROM SMALL ROOM TO WORLD ATTENTION

During the May meetings, award winning Ghanaian RnB singer Chemphe worked with youth from 12 African countries to develop the S2C song (printed on the inside front cover). Chemphe is a song writer, producer and creator of the Urban Life music brand from a fusion of RnB vocals and the grooves of Ghana. Chemphe has become the first S2C Champion, a professional who uses his or her talents and time to market or communicate the S2C message.

The song was loaded on YouTube with great success as the first social media product. The experiment and video shot in a small side room was watched across the world. Later in the year, during the launch of the Zimbabwe S2C programme, jazz and fusion musician Josh Meck produced a special S2C song which was sung at the event and also loaded onto YouTube.

The S2C song was on most of the delegates’ lips at the World Council of YMCA’s in July, attended by 1 200 participants from 85 countries. The youth delegates, along with Chemphe, performed at the International Youth Forum pre-event, and handled a workshop on social mobilisation through song. During this, youth representing all movements were selected and they then performed with him at an open air concert. Chemphe also represented African youth at an intergenerational panel discussion, and sang during other World Council events.

The African S2C agenda was clearly heard at the World Council on the main stage and in central discussions, with it being seen as the youth development model with the most potential for replication globally.

African representatives elected for World Alliance leadership were: Vezi Mncwango, Ethel Mashekwa, Charles Habiah, Evelyne Sadio and Lucy Wanjiru. By virtue of his AAYMCA presidency, James Ekow Rhule also sits on the World Alliance executive.
Apart from consolidating the S2C and other programmes to ensure a more solid value proposition, the Africa YMCA movement focused on leadership and cohesive branding.

**LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

The Leadership Academy, as a first step to the Renaissance University, gained much popularity and indeed, the first bricks were laid. Advanced planning entailed a think tank process for 2011 as well as holding Africa Alliance leadership events at the first venue in Togo, in West Africa.

**BRANDING**

An important milestone was reached with the adoption of the shared African YMCA logo. As a tangible visual statement, the logo reaffirms our core identity and solidifies that we are one entity in the continent, whose primary business is S2C. Shared values were also adopted, which now completes the core branding identity which began with the shared vision.
# Income and Expenditure Statement

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You can’t take away my hope
Cos ago day here for tomorrow
So don’t leave me out becos I’m young
Ebi like say you don’t understand me
Ebi like say you don’t love me
I’d like to say I can’t be undermined
I wanna tell you that...
I’m a youth with a dream
So I will rise up, stand up and fight for my rights
So take me as a part of u
Don’t see me a subject
But a citizen
And together we will rise
Sister sing...
Please don’t take away my joy, papa
Please don’t take away my hope
Cos ago day here for tomorrow
So don’t leave me out becos I’m young
Ebi like say you don’t understand me
Ebi like say you don’t love me
I’d like to say I can’t be undermined
I wanna tell you that...
I’m a youth with a dream
So I will rise up, stand up and fight for my rights
So take me as a part of u
Don’t see me a subject
But a citizen
And together we will rise
Oneness...
One hope...
One people...
Let’s stand together!

NATIONAL MOVEMENTS

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EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE AFRICAN RENAISSANCE