Investing in Africa’s Youth

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Africa: the youngest continent in the world

- 200 million (20%) 15-24 years
- 700 million below 30 years
The only continent with projected increase in its youth

10-12 million young people enter labour markets each year

Largest workforce in the world by 2040

Source: JICA: Empowering Young Africans to Live Their Dreams
Africa had 15 years of sustained economic growth

✓ 6 of the 10 fastest growing economies in last decade were in SSA
Is growth creating jobs for Africa’s youth?

✓ Young people are 2 to 3 times more likely than their parents to be out of work
Unemployment highest among educated youth

✓ not enough wage paying jobs created
The youth employment landscape in Africa

Source: JICA: Empowering Young Africans to Live Their Dreams
Understanding youth livelihoods

Figure 2.1: The entrepreneurial pipeline
Source: GEM Global Report, 2011
### Table 2.9: The youth entrepreneurial pipeline, by region, 2012-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>SSA</th>
<th>MENA</th>
<th>S&amp;EA</th>
<th>LAC</th>
<th>ECC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intentional entrepreneur</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nascent entrepreneur</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New entrepreneur</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEA</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Established entrepreneur</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discontinued entrepreneur</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Schøtt, Kew & Cheraghi (2015) Future Potential: A GEM Perspective on Youth Entrepreneurship
Key challenge:

✓ the potential of most young Africans is underutilised or wasted

Call to Action:

✓ need to move youth to productive jobs (paid or self-employment)
✓ concerted effort is key