

JUNE NEWSLETTER

New Communities

ANNOUNCING GOYN'S NEW COMMUNITY IN CAMPINAS, BRAZIL

As GOYN continues to grow its global network, we are proud to welcome Campinas as our newest community in Brazil. In May, GOYN, alongside **United Way Brasil** and the **FEAC Foundation (Fundação FEAC)**, officially launched this exciting partnership to help connect Opportunity Youth to the city's thriving economy and unlock pathways to long-term economic mobility.

Home to more than 1.1 million residents, Campinas is one of Brazil's leading centers for innovation, technology, education, and economic growth. Yet alongside these opportunities, significant inequalities persist, leaving an estimated 45,000–60,000 young people disconnected from pathways to education, employment, and economic mobility. With more than six decades of experience in local leadership, deep community trust, and strong partnerships across government, business, universities, and civil society, FEAC is uniquely positioned as a local partner to bridge these gaps.

The launch of GOYN in Campinas also marks an important step in our expansion across Brazil, building on our existing network of communities in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. GOYN's partner in São Paulo, United Way Brasil, is establishing a National Secretariat to serve as a platform to advance national youth economic mobility agendas, strengthen collaboration and learning among communities, mobilize partners, and amplify the collective impact of GOYN across Brazil.



Systems Change

Across the GOYN network, communities are effecting systems change by reimagining how institutions, stakeholders, and young people work together to create more equitable pathways to opportunity. Going forward, this newsletter will feature the best examples from across our network of 20 communities.

OY ARE SHAPING PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN RURAL INDIA

In Ramgarh and Barwani, rural Opportunity Youth (OY) are shaping how public resources are allocated in their communities by influencing local governance and ensuring youth priorities are reflected in public investment decisions.

In rural India, village development plans are traditionally created by local leaders and government officials with little structured youth participation. As a result, the experiences, aspirations, and needs of young people were often missing from local planning processes.

Through a youth-led planning approach, OY in Ramgarh and Barwani developed Youth Development Plans that identified priorities related to livelihoods, skills, migration, and access to government entitlements. These plans were then integrated into formal government planning and budgeting systems, directly influencing how opportunities and resources flow within rural communities.

This marks an important change in local systems by shifting youth engagement beyond participation in programs toward meaningful influence in governance and public decision-making.

The impact is already visible:

- **52% of national development funds in Barwani were utilized**, signaling stronger implementation of approved local budgets.
- **82% of village poverty entitlement plans were completed**, increasing household access to government schemes and benefits.
- **Youth priorities translated into funded investments**, including infrastructure and livelihood initiatives.
- Local planning processes became more coordinated, action-oriented, and **responsive to community realities**.

By embedding youth voice into formal governance structures, Ramgarh and Barwani are demonstrating how Authentic Youth Partnership can strengthen public systems, improve accountability, and ensure development investments better reflect community needs.

Community Highlights

BOGOTÁ + BARRANQUILLA YOUTH ADVISORY GROUPS BRING THEIR VOICES TO THE NATIONAL STAGE



Across Colombia, we recently witnessed the power of GOYN’s Authentic Youth Partnership (AYP) approach in action. Members of GOYN’s Youth Advisory Group (YAG) from from Bogotá and Barranquilla elevated the voices, concerns, and aspirations of local young people on national television in a facilitated conversation with Colombia’s presidential candidates.

Youth leaders shaped and guided critical dialogue on the issues defining their futures—from employment and education to equity and safety. In doing so, they demonstrated what becomes possible when young people are engaged not as beneficiaries of policy, but as co-creators of solutions and partners in civic dialogue and systems change. This moment reflects the heart of GOYN’s AYP approach: building opportunities for young people to lead—not just participate—in critical policy discussions that affect their futures.

[Watch the Panel with Candidate Paloma Valencia](#)

[Watch the Panel with Candidate Claudia López](#)

JUVENTUDES POTENTES 1ST YAG MEETING

In early May, GOYN São Paulo held it's first in-person meeting of the year with its YAG. They brought together around 20 young people to launch the 2026 cohort and present the final version of the annual work plan.



KHULE BOL YOUTH GATHERING - PUNE AND PCMC



Khule Bol, a first-of-its-kind youth-led gathering, was successfully organised in late May, bringing together expression, creativity, leadership, and action under one roof. Conceptualised and organised by the YAG of Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad (PCMC), the event celebrated young people's choices, aspirations, ownership, and vision for the future. The event marked the official launch of the 2026 Youth Innovation Fund (YIF) projects led by young changemakers, alongside the launch of the books *Future is Ours* and *Future is Daughter* created by Ms. Maya Gugelev showcasing our youth leaders' journey and our youth magazine *Khule Bol*.

Khule Bol (meaning Speak/express freely), was not just an event; it was a reminder that the future becomes stronger, more inclusive, and more hopeful when youth are at the centre of shaping it.

BUILDING PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY: V2T PROGRAM LAUNCH IN MOMBASA

GOYN's Anchor Partner in Mombasa, Swahilipot Hub Foundation, together with the National Council of Churches of Kenya and E4Impact, and with support from the Mastercard Foundation, hosted the Vijana2Thrive (V2T) Program launch.

The V2T Program is designed to empower 42,900 young people and create pathways to dignified and fulfilling work for 30,000 youth across Kenya's counties of Kilifi, Kitui, Mombasa, and Nairobi.



The program intentionally prioritizes young women who make up at least 80% of the targeted beneficiaries as part of efforts to address systemic barriers to economic participation for the most excluded.

The launch brought together the consortium partners and important community and youth stakeholders to align on the program’s vision, strengthen coordination, and set the foundation for effective implementation



TANGA'S YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP: GROWING IMPACT THROUGH YOUTH INNOVATION

In Tanzania the YAG agribusiness project, funded through the YIF, continues to make impressive progress. Following hands-on training by an Agriculture Officer from Tanga City Council, participating Opportunity Youth have now reached the pollination stage—an important milestone in the crop production cycle.

The crops are developing well, reflecting the dedication, hard work, and growing expertise of the young participants. This achievement highlights the power of youth-led innovation and practical learning in creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.



Recent Events

FROM THE MARGINS TO THE CENTER: GOYN AT THE SKOLL WORLD FORUM



This past April, GOYN's Founding Director Jamie McAuliffe, Senior Program Manager Joel Miranda, and two young leaders from the global GOYN network — Mohamed Hemed Harith from Mombasa, Kenya, and Atiya Yasmeen from Raichur, India — traveled to Oxford, England as part of Skoll Week 2026. Harith and Atiya joined as official Skoll World Forum delegates, participating in events across the Forum, the Marmalade Festival, and The Sidebar. The team co-facilitated *From the Margins to the Center: Young People Leading Sustainable Change*, a session exploring what authentic youth partnership looks like in practice across communities in Kenya and India. Beyond that session, Harith and Atiya also joined Joel in two additional sessions — *Telling Stories That Shift Systems: Narrative, Power, and Change* and *Youth Leadership: From Participation to Power* — bringing their lived experience and community perspectives into conversations about storytelling, narrative change, and what it truly means for young people to move from participation to real power and agency. And it didn't stop in the formal sessions — throughout the week, across dinners, hallway exchanges, and networking moments, they continued to share their perspectives and leave an impression on everyone they encountered.

This represents a meaningful milestone for GOYN. For the first time, the network brought former OY — young people who have navigated systemic exclusion firsthand and are now leading change in their own communities — into one of the world's most prominent global development forums as full participants and thought leaders. As Harith reflected, "It is not enough for young people to be in the room. We must also be heard. We must be trusted. And we must be part of the decisions that shape our futures." Atiya captured it with equal clarity: "We don't just need support — we need trust. When you trust young women and give them space, they can do powerful things." The response throughout the week made clear that voices like theirs are not just welcome in these spaces — they are necessary. GOYN leaves Oxford more committed than ever to the intentional work of bringing those most affected by disconnection, lack of opportunity, and structural injustice into the conversations and decision-making spaces designed to address them — because the solutions that will unlock opportunity and leadership pathways for millions of young people will only be complete when those young people help shape them.

LAUNCHING GOYN CASABLANCA

Earlier this year GOYN officially launched its newest community in Casablanca, Morocco, marking our first community in the Middle East and North Africa Region. We are thrilled to be partnering with Fondation Marocaine de l'Education pour l'Emploi (**EFE-Maroc**), who bring with them a broad and well-established network across the region and deep expertise in connecting opportunity youth to economic opportunities and sustained livelihoods.

In early May, EFE-Maroc brought together a diverse group of ecosystem stakeholders — employers, civil society organizations, training institutions, and public actors — united around a shared goal: better understanding the local youth employment landscape, identifying priority sectors and opportunities, and co-designing more inclusive and sustainable pathways to economic inclusion for Casablanca's opportunity youth.

The team jumped straight into action with an interactive workshop where participants explored the journeys and lived realities of different opportunity youth personas — surfacing barriers, identifying opportunities, and beginning to map the support mechanisms needed for meaningful economic inclusion. A strong start to the design phase, with ecosystem mapping now underway to deepen this understanding and lay the foundation for co-designed pathways tailored to the young people of Casablanca.

Please join us in welcoming Casablanca to the GOYN network!



Upcoming Events

2026 GLOBAL CONVENING



[LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR CONVENING](#)

We're excited to share that the next GOYN's 7th Annual Global Convening will take place in **Tanga, Tanzania**, from **November 16–19, 2026!**

More than just a traditional conference, our convening is designed as a space for shared problem-solving, deep learning, and authentic connection. Through sessions held in the field, by the sea, and within local entrepreneurial spaces, participants will learn directly from community context and lived experience.

Your dedication is what makes GOYN's impact possible. We can't wait to learn, build, and grow with you in Tanzania.

ABOUT GOYN

The Global Opportunity Youth Network is a community of partners and young leaders who are breaking down barriers to economic opportunity and creating lasting change so young people can thrive in livelihoods and life.

To learn more about our work visit our [website](#) and follow us:

