



-BOOST

Building Opportunities on Sustainable Talent



Executive Director's Message



Dear Partners, Stakeholders and the BOOST Community, June has been a month of growth, innovation, and impact for BOOST. Across our strategic pillars, we have continued creating opportunities for young people to transition from learning to earning through

skills development, entrepreneurship, climate action, and digital innovation. This month, we strengthened industry partnerships through the Seed Co-BOOST Innovation Challenge and the launch of the Crown Bank Career Readiness Programme, connecting young people to practical skills, mentorship, and real-world opportunities.

We also concluded the CALM programme in Chipinge, Beitbridge and Mangwe Districts, empowering communities with climate-smart education and renewable energy solutions.

At the Ruwa Innovation Hub, young people engaged in critical conversations on Artificial Intelligence and the future of work, reflecting our commitment to preparing youth for emerging opportunities in a rapidly changing world.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our partners, communities and young people for their continued trust and collaboration. Together, we are building a future driven by innovation, resilience and sustainable talent.

Tinashe Mushonga

Inside this Issue

02 About Us

03 Employability, Entrepreneurship & Innovation Systems

- SeedCo Innovation Challenge
- Career Readiness Programme

05 Climate Action, Green Skills and Resilience

- CALM Project Impact and District Close Out
- Climate Innovation Spotlight

07 Inside the Ruwa Innovation Hub

- Empowering Future Innovators at the Ruwa Innovation Hub
- Exploring Artificial Intelligence and Its Impact on Our World
- African Union Commissioner Visits BOOST's Ruwa Innovation Hub



ABOUT US

BOOST is a Zimbabwean youth-led development organisation dedicated to expanding inclusive skills development pathways, strengthening employability and enterprise systems, advancing digital and innovation skills and promoting climate-resilient livelihoods for adolescents and youth. With over two decades of experience in youth development, innovation and systems engagement, we operate as a platform builder, systems intermediary and ecosystem convener, rather than a standalone project implementer.

We work at the intersection of youth leadership, skills development, innovation ecosystems, and market systems, supporting young people, particularly those who are marginalized, out of school, unemployed or living in climate-vulnerable contexts, to transition sustainably from learning to earning and to contribute meaningfully to inclusive economic growth and resilience.

Our Vision



A future where young people drive inclusive economic growth, climate resilience and innovation led development.



Our Mission

Design, scale, and institutionalise youth-led solutions through skills development, innovation ecosystems, partnerships, and evidence-based systems change.

Our Strategic Pillars

Under our 2026–2030 Strategy, BOOST focuses on five interlinked strategic pillars.



Employability and Entrepreneurship

Strengthening skills-to-industry, aligning youth with industry and supporting youth-led enterprises to grow and integrate into market pipelines and value chains.



Climate Action, Green Skills and Resilience

Positioning youth as central actors in climate adaptation, renewable energy, circular economy solutions, and climate-smart livelihoods, particularly in vulnerable communities.



Digital, AI and Innovation

Expanding digital literacy, advanced ICT and AI-relevant skills, ethical technology use, and technology-enabled innovation through blended learning and hybrid hubs.



Partnerships, Policy and Systems Influence

Convening public, private and youth actors to reduce structural barriers, influence policy and strengthen ecosystem coordination at scale.



Organisational Excellence and Sustainability

Building institutional resilience through strong governance and compliance, people and culture development, digital operations and financial systems.

FEATURE STORY

Turning Local Challenges into Global Solutions: The EcoGlow Lights Journey

Sometimes the best ideas are born from everyday struggles. For Simbarashe Masamba, frequent power cuts inspired a solution that would eventually take him from Zimbabwe to the global stage.

Growing up in Zimbabwe, Simbarashe saw how unreliable electricity affected education and daily life. During power cuts, students struggled to complete their homework while families relied on paraffin lamps and disposable batteries for lighting.

Determined to find a solution, Simbarashe co-founded EcoGlow Lights, a low-cost, environmentally friendly lighting system that uses flowing water to generate electricity for households. The innovation aims to provide safer, affordable lighting while promoting clean energy in rural communities.

Although the idea had great potential, transforming it into a practical solution required mentorship, technical support, and opportunities to test it in real communities. That opportunity came through the Climate Action for the Last Mile (CALM) Project, implemented by BOOST. Through the CALM Innovation Bootcamp, Simbarashe received training in innovation, entrepreneurship, product development, and business planning, while being challenged to think beyond technology and focus on creating solutions that truly meet community needs.

"The biggest benefit of participating in the CALM Bootcamp was gaining the skills, mentorship, and confidence to develop EcoGlow Lights from a prototype into a more practical product," he says.



Following the bootcamp, EcoGlow Lights was piloted at Kutama Secondary School, where feedback from teachers and learners helped refine the product's design and usability. BOOST also connected Simbarashe with valuable mentorship, entrepreneurship support, and strategic partnerships that strengthened his innovation journey.



In June Simbarashe's journey reached an exciting new chapter when he was selected to represent Zimbabwe at the 2026 Acceleration Week for Global Youth Development Programs in Shanghai and Wuhan, China.

The programme brought together young innovators from around the world to exchange ideas, build partnerships, and explore solutions for sustainable development. Simbarashe presented EcoGlow Lights to an international audience, participated in innovation workshops, and received valuable feedback that will help shape the next stage of the project.

"The experience taught me the importance of innovation, collaboration, and building strong partnerships," he says. "It motivated me to work even harder to expand EcoGlow Lights and create greater impact in Zimbabwe."



Reflecting on the experience, Simbarashe expressed his gratitude: *"I would like to thank the BOOST team for their continued support, and especially Vimbainashe Mushure (BOOST Programs Manager) for guiding me through the application process and supporting me until I received my visa. Her encouragement made this journey possible."*

Simbarashe's journey reflects our commitment to identifying and nurturing young innovators with the skills, mentorship, and opportunities they need to turn ideas into impact.



EMPLOYABILITY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION SYSTEMS



SeedCo – BOOST Innovation Challenge Takes Students into the Heart of Agricultural Innovation

As part of the Seed Co–BOOST Innovation Challenge, young innovators from Zimbabwean tertiary institutions visited the Seed Co Stapleford Facility for a learning experience designed to bridge innovation and industry.

The Seed Co–BOOST Innovation Challenge is a national innovation programme that brings together students from different programs and faculties to develop technology-driven solutions that address real operational challenges faced by Seed Co, one of Africa's leading seed companies.

The challenge forms part of a strategic partnership between Seed Co and BOOST aimed at unlocking youth talent and accelerating the development of innovative agritech solutions for Africa's future.



During the visit, students engaged with Seed Co professionals across production, processing, research, quality assurance, and commercial operations.



The experience provided participants with first-hand exposure to the seed value chain and the practical challenges faced within modern agricultural systems.

By interacting directly with industry experts and observing operations on the ground, students gained a deeper understanding of how innovation can improve productivity, efficiency, sustainability, and food security.

The visit also marked an important milestone in the challenge journey as teams prepare to move into the solution design and prototype development phases. Successful teams will receive technical mentorship, access to field-testing environments, innovation training, and opportunities to pitch for funding and pilot implementation.

Through initiatives like this, BOOST continues to create innovation ecosystems where young people move beyond learning about entrepreneurship to solving real challenges that create economic and social impact.

Preparing Tomorrow's Workforce: BOOST Launch of the Career Readiness & Talent Pipeline Programme

Transitioning from university to the workplace can be one of the most challenging stages in a young person's journey. While graduates leave campus with academic knowledge, many still face difficulties navigating recruitment processes, understanding workplace expectations, and positioning themselves for meaningful careers.

To help bridge this gap, BOOST officially launched its Career Readiness Programme at the Catholic University of Zimbabwe, marking the first stop in a national initiative that will expand to Women's University in Africa, Harare Institute of Technology, and Bindura University of Science Education. The programme is designed to prepare students for today's evolving market by

combining professional development with practical industry exposure. Throughout the session, students explored essential workplace competencies including professional etiquette, personal branding, communication skills, interview preparation, CV development, digital literacy, and the future of work.



The programme is designed to prepare students for today's evolving market by combining professional development with practical industry exposure. Throughout the session, students explored essential workplace competencies including professional etiquette, personal branding, communication skills, interview preparation, CV development, digital literacy, and the future of work.

Beyond technical skills, participants were encouraged to think strategically about their careers, embrace lifelong learning, and develop the confidence needed to thrive in competitive professional environments.

The Career Readiness Programme forms part of BOOST's broader vision of building sustainable talent pipelines by connecting tertiary education with industry needs



Through partnerships with employers and industry leaders, students will continue to benefit from mentorship opportunities, career talks, networking sessions, and exposure to real workplace environments.

As the programme expands to more universities across Zimbabwe, BOOST remains committed to ensuring that more young people transition successfully from learning to earning.

Student Opportunity

Students from Harare Institute of Technology, Women's University in Africa, and Bindura University of Science Education are encouraged to follow BOOST platforms for announcements regarding upcoming Career Readiness Programme engagements at their institutions.

Scan the QR
CODE TO
REGISTER



CLIMATE ACTION, GREEN SKILLS & RESILIENCE

Building Climate-Resilient Communities Through Green Skills and Renewable Energy

Climate change continues to disproportionately affect rural and underserved communities, limiting access to quality education, sustainable energy, and economic opportunities. Through the Climate Action for the Last Mile (CALM) programme, we addressed these challenges by equipping learners, teachers, and young people with climate-smart skills, renewable energy knowledge, and innovation opportunities.





Implemented in partnership with government and local stakeholders, CALM integrates renewable energy access, climate-smart education, youth innovation, and green entrepreneurship to ensure that vulnerable communities are not left behind in the transition to a sustainable future.

During the month of June, BOOST concluded CALM implementation through close-out engagements in Chipinge, Beitbridge, and Mangwe districts, reflecting on achievements, lessons learned, and sustainability pathways.

Programme Close-Out: Chipinge District

The CALM programme close-out in Chipinge District celebrated months of successful implementation across 31 schools, 6 wards, and Tongogara Refugee Settlement, where climate smart education and renewable energy solutions have transformed learning experiences for thousands of young people.

Program Impact Highlights

2,048

Beneficiaries reached across Chipinge District.

1,890

Learners trained in climate-smart education and Chigubhu Lantern assembly.

101

Teachers were equipped as Sustainability Multipliers to continue delivering climate education.

158

Out-of-school youth in climate innovation and green entrepreneurship were engaged.

385

Chigubhu Lanterns were deployed

2

Solar energy stations were installed

Programme Close – Out: Beitbridge District

As part of the June close-out activities, the CALM programme also concluded implementation in Beitbridge District through stakeholder engagements and field visits to Malibeng School and Malikuwa School. The close-out meeting provided an opportunity for district stakeholders, school leaders, and community representatives

to review programme progress, celebrate achievements, and reaffirm their commitment to sustaining climate-smart education initiatives within schools.

Program Impact Highlights

2

Solar energy stations were installed

420

Learners trained in renewable energy, solar technology, and Chigubhu Lantern assembly.

Strengthened collaboration between schools, government institutions, and local communities.

Reinforced sustainability through teacher engagement and proper management of installed solar infrastructure.

Programme Close-Out: Mangwe District

In Mangwe District, CALM empowered learners and out-of-school youth across Wards 6, 9, and 11 through practical green skills training, solar energy access, and youth innovation initiatives.

Program Impact Highlights

1,513

Learners trained in climate-smart education

254

Youth trained in waste management and green skills

441

Solar lanterns distributed to support safe learning

12

Schools reached

65

Teachers trained

50+

Youth climate advocates developed

Across all 3 districts, stakeholders consistently highlighted that CALM has strengthened practical learning, youth empowerment, and school-community collaboration. Teachers and district officials emphasized the need to scale green skills training, sustain environmental clubs, and expand renewable energy infrastructure to more schools.

While challenges such as uneven participation in some wards were noted, stakeholders agreed that the programme has created a strong foundation for continued climate action.

Climate Innovation Spotlight

Farming the Future: How One Young Innovator is Building Climate Resilience

For Nonhlanhla Moyo, climate change is not just a global issue, it is a daily reality. Growing up in Mangwe District, she watched unpredictable rainfall, prolonged droughts and poor harvests make farming increasingly difficult for families who depend on agriculture for food and income.

Rather than seeing only challenges, Nonhlanhla saw opportunities. Surrounded by organic waste and discarded Chibuku plastic bottles, she imagined a solution that could help communities produce food while protecting the environment.

Together with her team, Climate Cultivators, she developed the Mangwe Nexus Unit—an innovative system that combines biogas production with solar-powered hydroponic farming. Using recycled plastic bottles as vertical growing towers, the system produces vegetables while using significantly less water, making it ideal for drought-prone communities.

A major milestone in her journey came through the Climate Action for the Last Mile (CALM) Innovation Bootcamp. The programme equipped her with practical innovation skills, mentorship and opportunities to collaborate with other young climate innovators.



"The bootcamp gave us the knowledge and confidence to improve our idea and move from concept to implementation," says Nonhlanhla.

Today, the team has successfully built prototype growing towers and begun piloting vegetable production. Beyond food production, the project is creating opportunities for young people to gain skills in renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture and green entrepreneurship.

Nonhlanhla's journey demonstrates how local innovation can address some of Zimbabwe's biggest climate challenges while creating sustainable livelihoods for communities.

INSIDE THE RUWA INNOVATION HUB



Empowering Future Innovators at the Ruwa Innovation Hub

The Ruwa Innovation Hub is BOOST innovation space dedicated to equipping young people with future-ready digital skills, entrepreneurial capabilities, and practical experience to thrive in an increasingly technology-driven world. Through hands-on training, mentorship and innovation programmes, the Hub empowers young people to transform ideas into solutions, businesses and sustainable livelihoods.

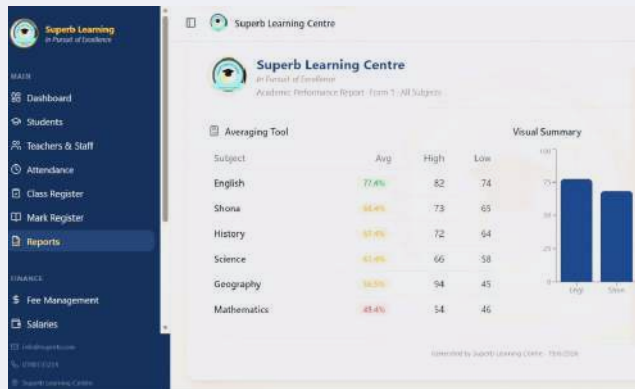
In June, the Hub continued to strengthen Zimbabwe's digital innovation ecosystem by reaching 186 adolescents and young people through training in Digital Skills, Entrepreneurship, Computer Literacy and Computer Programming.

From Classroom Learning to Client Pitch

The impact of the Hub's programmes is reflected in the journey of Tafadzwa Mutemachani, founder of Elev8 Solutions.

As part of BOOST's Web Development and Entrepreneurship programme, Tafadzwa identified an opportunity to improve school administration through technology. He developed a School Management System featuring student registration, attendance tracking, fee management, academic records and communication tools.

In June, Tafadzwa and his team presented the platform to Brooklands Academy, where the demonstration was well received. Following the presentation, the school requested further documentation and a formal quotation, marking an important step towards commercialising the innovation.



Tafadzwa's journey embodies BOOST's vision of moving young people from learning to earning by equipping them with practical skills, entrepreneurial thinking and the confidence to develop solutions that address real community needs.

His success demonstrates the growing impact of the Ruwa Innovation Hub in nurturing Zimbabwe's next generation of digital innovators and entrepreneurs.

Exploring Artificial Intelligence and Its Impact on Our World



Artificial Intelligence is rapidly reshaping the way we live, learn, and work. Yet for many young people, AI remains a concept that feels distant and difficult to understand.

To bridge this gap, we hosted an interactive Film Screening and Discussion on the Origins and Impact of Artificial Intelligence at the Ruwa Innovation Hub, bringing together young people to explore one of the world's fastest-growing technologies, supported by the U.S. Embassy Zimbabwe.

The documentary traced the evolution of Artificial Intelligence from its early beginnings to its growing influence across industries such as healthcare, education, agriculture, business, and cybersecurity. Participants reflected on how AI is transforming the future of work while creating both opportunities and new ethical responsibilities.



One of the most engaging discussions centred on data privacy and digital security. Young people raised thoughtful questions about the safety of personal information, responsible AI use, and the safeguards needed to protect communities in an increasingly digital world.

Beyond the discussion, the session sparked innovation. Several participants expressed interest in designing AI-powered solutions capable of strengthening cybersecurity, protecting personal data, and addressing community challenges through technology.

The film screening demonstrated that introducing emerging technologies to young people is not simply about building digital awareness, it is about inspiring the next generation of innovators to become creators of technology that improves lives.

African Union Commissioner Visits BOOST's Ruwa Innovation Hub

In June, we had the honour of welcoming H.E. Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, African Union Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI) to the Ruwa Innovation Hub as part of a benchmarking visit on Zimbabwe's implementation of the Education 5.0 model.



The visit provided an opportunity to showcase how the Ruwa Innovation Hub is creating pathways for young people to become innovators, entrepreneurs and problem-solvers through practical skills development, technology and innovation.

During the tour, the Commissioner engaged with young innovators, trainers and entrepreneurs, gaining first-hand insight into how BOOST is supporting youth to develop market-driven solutions while strengthening employability and enterprise development.



The visit provided an opportunity to showcase how the Ruwa Innovation Hub is creating pathways for young people to become innovators, entrepreneurs and problem-solvers through practical skills development, technology and innovation.

During the tour, the Commissioner engaged with young innovators, trainers and entrepreneurs, gaining first-hand insight into how BOOST is supporting youth to develop market-driven solutions while strengthening employability and enterprise development.

The delegation also visited the Ruwa Vocational Training Centre to learn how innovation, technical skills and industrialisation are being integrated to prepare young people for the future of work.

For BOOST, the visit represented an important recognition of its work in advancing youth innovation and digital transformation.

As the organisation continues investing in future-ready skills and entrepreneurship, engagements such as these strengthen collaboration with regional institutions and position Zimbabwe's young innovators as contributors to Africa's development agenda.



Building the Future Together

Stay Informed - Stay Connected

As we conclude our first monthly newsletter, we celebrate the young people, educators, innovators, partners, communities, and supporters who continue to make our work possible. Every programme delivered, every innovation nurtured, and every opportunity created brings us one step closer to a Zimbabwe where young people are empowered to shape a sustainable and prosperous future.

Here's to building opportunities on sustainable talent.

Here's to learning, innovating, and creating impact.

Up Coming Activities

Info Session Career Readiness

July 09, 2026 - Online

Career Readiness Mentorship Application

July 14 - 16, 2026 - Online

Enactus Team Audits

8-16 July 2026

Enactus Enactus National Competition

3-4 September 2026 at Golden Conifer

Enactus World Cup

16-19 November 2026

Smart Drinking and Moderation Challenge

16-19 November 2026

Whats Happening at the Ruwa Hub the Month of July

Graphics Designing Class 1 | Social Media Class 1 | Mobile Lab in Mabvuku

06 - 10 July 2026

Film Festival

July 14, 2026

Learn and Earn Career Fare

July 15, 2026

Ecommerce Class, GD class 2, Mobile Lab | Introducing Online Classes

16-17 July 2026

Ecommerce, GD Class 2, Social Media Classes |

20-24 July 2026

Training of trainers | Schneider

24 July 2026

Schneider Online Lectures| Goromonzi Mobile Lab Week

27-31 July 2026



Opportunities Section

Funding Opportunities

ASSF Opportunity Listing - American Spaces Support Funds Program

EducationUSA Opportunity Listing - EducationUSA Opportunity Funds Program

Enactus Alumni Opportunities

We're exploring a dedicated Alumni Track at the World Cup. Do you know alumni from your country who are planning to attend the World Cup and would be interested in co-creating this track with us? Kindly let us know at vimbai@boostfellowship.org

If this is your first time interacting with us - welcome.

If you've been part of our journey, thank you for believing in our mission and walking alongside us.

Each month, we'll bring you stories of innovation, resilience, partnerships, and the young people transforming challenges into opportunities across Zimbabwe.

Want to share your story in the next issue? Email us at boostfellowship@gmail.com or send a message at +263 78 044 5843

SCAN ME FOR ALL SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS & DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW

