



## PROFILES OF EU-YSB MEMBERS

### 1. Linessie Kwata Phiri

Linessie Kwata Phiri is a 28-year-old dedicated human rights activist and education advocate. She holds a Bachelor of Social Science in Development Studies and an Advanced Diploma in Community Development. She is the Founder of the Together We Rise Foundation, an organization dedicated to promoting girls and rural children’s access to education. She has previously worked with Action aid Malawi and Purple Innovation for Women and Girls, and currently serves as the Young Feminist Network Northern Malawi Chapter Lead.

Linessie’s expertise is recognized globally through several prestigious appointments, including being a 2025-2026 U.S. Department of State Community Solutions Program Fellow, a Global Youth Ambassador for Education (2025-2027) with Their World, a delegate to the 2025 World Bank Group Youth Summit and a 2025 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Education Above All Youth Rights Academy delegate.

An alumna of the African Women Leadership Institute and a member of the Commonwealth Youth and Gender Equality Network, Linessie continues to bridge the gap for vulnerable populations through strategic partnership development and evidence-based advocacy.

### 2. James Kalawa

James Kalawa is a Malawian youth leader, climate and energy advocate, and governance representative. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Energy Systems from the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST). At MUST he served as Student Union President and a board member of the University Council, where he championed student welfare, policy dialogue, and institutional governance reforms. He is also a member of the commonwealth Students Association (CSA).

James has also represented youth voices in national governance platforms, including Malawi National Students Union conferences and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy II Conference, and is trained in Climate Governance, Diplomacy, and Negotiations through AGNES positioning him as a key negotiator for Malawi’s sustainable future.

Professionally, James has worked as an Energy Engineer and as a Solar Technician with CARD and SolarWorks Malawi, contributing to solar energy access and climate resilience initiatives in vulnerable communities. As a teacher and Head of Sciences at Lespe’rance Private Secondary School located in Balaka, he promotes STEM education and youth empowerment. He is passionate about strengthening youth participation in governance, advancing EU–Malawi partnerships, and driving sustainable development across Malawi.

### **3. Lisa Kampata**

Lisa Kampata is a climate-tech entrepreneur and development practitioner working at the intersection of climate technology, youth capacity building, and macroeconomic policy. Her education background is in Agricultural Economics from the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR). She is the Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Climate Tech Lab, a climate-tech enterprise advancing the use of drone technology and artificial intelligence (AI) to strengthen climate resilience and data driven decision making.

Through her work, Lisa has engaged over 500 young people in climate education and advocacy initiatives and has provided hands-on training to more than 120 youth, including girls in STEM, in digital skills, GIS, and climate innovation. Her initiatives promote the integration of drone imaging and AI-powered mapping to identify and monitor climate-risk areas. She also supports youth-led innovators and small enterprises through incubation, mentorship, and improved access to finance, strengthening the bridge between policy, innovation, and enterprise. Lisa has served as President of the QS Impact Council, advocating for SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). She has worked in education policy with the Malawi Government’s Ministry of Education and served as an advisor to UNESCO under the Climate-Smart Education Systems initiative. She has represented Malawian youth at national and international platforms, including the World Bank Group Youth Summit and the National Youth Summit of Malawi.

She believes that sustainable solutions must be co-created with communities, not imposed upon them, and that young people deserve not only to be consulted, but to sit at decision-making tables as active contributors shaping the policies and systems that affect their futures.

### **4. Lonjezo Emmanuel Sibweza**

Lonjezo Emmanuel Sibweza is a Youth Governance and enterprise systems architect whose work sits at the critical intersection of SME incubation, public governance reform, economic empowerment and development cooperation in Malawi. He has a degree in Political Science from the University of Malawi.

He designs and strengthens entrepreneurial infrastructure that enables young people to access markets, capital, and institutional support, with a focus on inclusive and women-led enterprise growth. He has led incubation ecosystems supporting over 170 young entrepreneurs and contributed to national dialogue processes linking youth economic participation to policy reform.

With experience across World Bank and USAID-supported programmes, Lonjezo works to bridge grassroots enterprise realities with institutional policy frameworks. He is committed to positioning youth entrepreneurship not as a peripheral social initiative, but as a structural pillar of national development and EU–Malawi cooperation, advancing policy environments that translate strategic partnerships into tangible economic opportunity.

### **5. Robert Moyo**

Robert Moyo is a Youth Economic Empowerment and Development Specialist with over six years of experience in market systems development, financial inclusion, cooperative strengthening and climate-resilient livelihood programming. As the Founder and Executive Director of Nthowa Livelihoods, Robert provides strategic leadership in youth-focused entrepreneurship, having contributed to the creation of over 6,000 economic opportunities across Malawi.

His professional background includes significant work in agricultural value chains and cooperative governance, with extensive experience managing initiatives supported by major development partners. Robert is a passionate advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—particularly Decent Work, Gender Equality, and Climate Action—and has a proven track record of facilitating youth dialogue forums and representing youth perspectives in multi-stakeholder platforms.

Robert holds a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness from the University of Eastern Africa Baraton and is committed to advancing green economic transformation and participatory governance to ensure a more inclusive future for Malawian youth.

#### **6. Bernadette Mponda**

Bernadette Mponda is an education professional and community development practitioner with experience in youth mentorship, facilitation and community engagement. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Education-Humanities from Nalikule College of Education.

Her career is anchored in a profound commitment to educational equity, evidenced by her impactful tenure as a Learner Mentor with CAMFED. In this role, she served as a vital bridge for young girls, providing the academic guidance and personal mentorship necessary to navigate systemic barriers to schooling. She also brings voluntary experience working with Corps Africa Malawi, where she facilitated community led initiatives through the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach. She also supported young girls in pad making workshops to help in eradicating existing period poverty in rural communities to ensure social dignity and uninterrupted access to education.

In addition to her volunteering experience, Bernadette is the founder of Sprout and Shade Tree Nurseries, a youth led initiative focused on tree seedling production and environmental sustainability. She is committed to promoting meaningful youth engagement and ensuring that rural and marginalized voices are heard and influence policy as well as development programming.

#### **7. Twambilire Gondwe**

Twambilire Gondwe is a Gender and Development practitioner. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Gender and development from the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR). Currently serving as an Assistant Gender Officer for the Karonga District Council, Twambilire is at the front lines of local governance, managing critical data analysis, case assessments, and field-based awareness campaigns.

Her work is instrumental in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) at the grassroots level, transforming institutional policies into tangible protections for women and girls in her community. Her influence extends deeply into the global advocacy space, characterized by a sophisticated understanding of reproductive justice and feminist leadership.

Driven by an entrepreneurial spirit and a commitment to inclusivity, Twambilire seeks to dismantle harmful cultural practices by creating platforms for knowledge exchange and skill-sharing. Twambilire is committed to amplifying voices and initiating change in my community and beyond.

#### **8. Martin Nsondole**

Martin Nsondole is a distinguished youth development practitioner and communications specialist. He holds a Bachelor's Arts degree in Communication and Cultural Studies from the University of Malawi (UNIMA). His early career in media and local radio stations instilled in him a profound belief in the power of storytelling to amplify community narratives, laying the groundwork for his lifelong commitment to responsible communication and grassroots social impact.

A dedicated community mobilizer, Martin's leadership journey was significantly shaped by his work with the Community of Sant'Egidio and the BRAVO project, where he championed the legal identity rights of vulnerable children. In response to the global disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, he co-founded the Mulanje Boma Youth Club (MBYC), demonstrating remarkable resilience by leveraging his public relations expertise to build a structured youth movement during a time of immense uncertainty.

Under his strategic guidance, the organization evolved into the formally registered Mulanje Youth Organisation (MULAYO), achieving institutional maturity through high-level partnerships with UNICEF Malawi, Youth Wave, and the African Union Youth Program. Martin has successfully transitioned the group from informal youth activism into a results-oriented development entity, ensuring that governance systems and advocacy work are robust enough to influence both district and national policy dialogues.

As the current Executive Director of MULAYO, Martin serves as a vital bridge between high-level stakeholders and community realities, leading initiatives in civic education, digital engagement, and entrepreneurship. Driven by the philosophy of "Live and Let Live," he remains dedicated to creating inclusive platforms where young people are not just beneficiaries but active architects of sustainable development.