

## Profile YES Scholarship Winners

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Name: **Makochi Catherine Nki-mbirh**  
Date of birth: **8<sup>th</sup> September 1982**  
Country of origin: **Cameroon**  
Country of studies: **Cameroon**  
Present country: **Cameroon**  
Studies level: **Telecommunication Engineering  
Networking and computer**  
University: **National Advanced School of Post  
and Telecommunications**  
Field of study: **Technical Department**  
YES Scholarship: **2005/2006**  
Sponsor: **Vodafone**  
Profession: **Student**



Ms. Makochi was awarded a YES Scholarship (ITU/VODAFONE) in 2005. She got into the National Advanced School of Posts and Telecommunications in Cameroon, in October 2001 just after her High School. She built great desire to work and influence the progress of the ICT, but mostly, she found great satisfaction and fulfillment in what she did and believed.

Unfortunately, in May 2003, her dreams were shattered! Before she was through with her training to become a telecommunication technician, her father passed away. Not only had she lost the only source of financing and the one person who most inspired her in life, she thought she had lost her reason to further her studies.

In 2003, through the Internet, she applied to participate in the Youth Forum in Geneva. Acceptance to this program changed her life. This forum opened her life into a whole new world. It was during this forum that she learned about the YES Program.

On return to Cameroon, she saw her family getting poorer with time and she was pushed to give up schooling and consider other options, including getting a job. After a very difficult course, she strongly nurtured the desire to continue her studies but funding was the challenge. She had almost given up when she received an e-mail about the YES Scholarship program she applied. No one would imagine the joy and relief she felt. It brought new life running through her.

Ms. Makochi is studying at the National Advanced School of Post and telecommunications, Cameroon and intends to obtain her diploma as a telecommunication Engineer specializing in Computer and Networking. Moreover, she is one of the founders of the Association of Student Engineers, ENSP whose aim is to better create and manage opportunities, which will improve the ICT industry in their country.

She would like to thank the sponsor (VODAFONE) and the ITU who through the YES program brought new hope and meaning into her life. She hopes that this initiative would continue, helping hard working young people with potential to achieve their goals. She encourages young people to set goals and believe in themselves.