

UN YOUTH FLASH

Service of the United Nations Programme on Youth

20 February 2004

The UN Youth Flash keeps you up to date on the youth agenda of the UN and partnering youth organizations around the world. We encourage you to forward Youth Flash to people in your network. You can subscribe and unsubscribe by sending an email to youth@un.org with 'subscribe' or 'unsubscribe' as the subject line. Below you will read more on:

- News from UN headquarters
- Feature: HIV/AIDS from an intergenerational perspective
- Save the Children's publication on participation
- E-Conferences on youth topics
- Calendar of youth events
- Interesting websites - including our site of the month: the South African Youth Development Network

News from UN headquarters

>> Youth at the Commission for Social Development <<
The 42nd Session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development was held from 4 to 13 February 2004 in New York. This Commission is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, and is charged with preparing social policy for the Council, including on youth development issues. Although there was no official documentation on youth issues on the agenda this year, an informal meeting was held to discuss the possibilities of organizing the fifth session of the World Youth Forum in 2006. The Commission made no official decisions; it is however expected that the General Assembly, at its 59th session in October 2004, would consider the issue further.
For more info on the Commission for Social Development:
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/csod2004.htm>

>> Reports of United Nations youth workshops available on the web <<
A new feature has been added to our website. From now on you will be able to read the reports and some of the background papers of the workshops that the Division for Social Policy and Development holds concerning youth and intergenerational matters.
Please visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/Workshops/MainPage.htm>

>> Youth Employment Network <<
The Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network (YEN) was created under the impetus of the Millennium Declaration, where Heads of State and Government resolved to 'develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work'. The Network is a partnership under the leadership of the United

Nations, the World Bank and the International Labour Organization (ILO, which is also hosting the YEN Secretariat) that aims to tackle the issue of youth employment at the global, national and local levels. The mandate for this global alliance for youth employment has been strengthened by two UN General Assembly resolutions, the December 2002 resolution on promoting youth employment (57/165) and resolution 58/133, of January 2004, concerning policies and programmes involving youth. Both these resolutions encourage countries to prepare National Action Plans on youth employment by September 2004, with the assistance of the ILO, the UN and the World Bank as well as other specialized agencies - and with the participation of young people. Nine countries, namely Azerbaijan, Brazil, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Namibia, Senegal, and Sri Lanka have stepped forward to be lead countries in this process and showcase youth employment practices that others can learn from.

You can keep updated on YEN news by subscribing to its bi-monthly newsletter that is sent out by email. To subscribe, send an email to Justin Sykes: sykes@ilo.org

More info on YEN: <http://www.ilo.org/yen>

Feature

>> Addressing HIV/AIDS from an Intergenerational Perspective <<

Introduction of a background paper written by Laura Skolnik for the workshop on HIV/AIDS and Family Well-being held in Namibia from 28-30 January 04. For more info, contact the author via: skolnik@un.org

"In just over 2 decades, HIV/AIDS has permeated borders, crossed continents, and affected individuals, families, communities, and societies across the globe. HIV/AIDS is now recognized as more than just a health issue - it is an issue of development, of economics, of security, and of human rights. In 2001 alone, an estimated 5 million people became HIV positive, 800,000 of them children. The spread of HIV is due to many, often inter-linked dynamics. These include poverty, low levels of education, gender inequality, population mobility, and lack of access to basic services. Particular vulnerable groups, such as injecting drug users, sex workers and their clients, men who have sex with men, and mobile populations still often lack basic information about HIV/AIDS. Young people around the world also constitute a high-risk group, and lack vital information necessary for protecting themselves.

"There exists an enormous civil society "AIDS activism" movement, encouraging political will, implementing prevention campaigns, and providing care and support services for people infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS. The global political will to tackle HIV/AIDS has also grown, culminating in the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS), held in June 2001. The UNGASS Declaration of Commitment, and later Millennium Declaration, set targets and goals for worldwide action against HIV/AIDS.

"The momentous challenge remains for governments to implement measures to meet these targets and goals. In addition, funds need to be raised and resources allocated by the international community. Successful HIV prevention programmes have been identified, and now need to be adapted, replicated and scaled up around the world. Additional emphasis needs to be placed on the provision of care and support service, as well as treatment options. Lastly, partnerships need to be continued and broadened, to include governments, civil society, the United Nations, and the private sector."

After this introduction, the paper briefly reviews the demographic, economic and household impacts of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and describes the consequences on the lives of youth, older persons, orphans and the family. It concludes by stating that little international attention has been given to researching how HIV/AIDS affects, and is affected by, the family. In the second part of this paper the author then presents several perspectives on addressing HIV/AIDS from a family perspective. You can read the entire working paper in PDF-format at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/Workshops/Windhoek-backgroundpaper1.pdf> ; and read more about the workshop at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/Workshops/MainPage.htm>

Publications

>> Save the Children: 'Children and Young People as Citizens' << Claire O' Kane, 2003. 'Children and Young People as Citizens: Partners for Social Change'. Kathmandu, Nepal: Save the Children South and Central Asia Region.

This flagship publication of the NGO Save the Children deals with promoting children's and young people's participation and citizenship rights in South and Central Asia. The publication consists of an overview and three booklets. The overview provides a summary analysis of Save the Children's work. The first booklet explores the actual vision and concepts relating to children's participation, citizenship and governance. The second booklet shares important insights, analysis and learning from programme experiences in the region as well as 18 key recommendations. The third booklet gives a summary of positive outcomes from child participation and citizenship work in the region.

The overview of the book is available at the website: <http://www.savechildren-alliance.org.np> (go to 'publication'). For more information contact: Shikha Ghildyal: s.ghildyal@savechildren-alliance.org.np

E-Conferences on youth topics

>> Join the World Bank's discussion on poverty and youth! << From 9 to 27 February the World Bank is hosting a web discussion on youth and poverty. This global 'e-conference' is modeled on the format of a face-to-face conference and is open to people from all over the

world. Participation is free of charge, and young people are particularly encouraged to join the discussion. Recommendations made by participants will be shared with top decision makers at a major World Bank conference on poverty reduction to be held in Shanghai in May 2004. For updated information and registration for the dialogue, please visit: http://www.worldbank.org/devforum/forum_povertyandyouth.htm

>> Join the discussion on Youth, HIV/AIDS and Gender <<

The NGO Committee on Youth invites you to participate in a month-long (from 2 to 29 February) online discussion for and by youth (those aged 15 to 24 years) on the gender dimensions of the AIDS pandemic. The discussion includes questions such as:

- How is gender equality part of the AIDS prevention and education that youth activists and educators do?
- What is the role of men and boys in confronting the epidemic, in terms of prevention and care?

The discussion is already in its third week and has more than 180 contributing and listening participants from all over the world. For more info visit: <http://projects.takingitglobal.org/genderAIDS>. To join, send a blank email to: GenderAIDS-subscribe@groups.takingitglobal.org. You will be sent a message with the first discussion topic after you sign up.

Calendar of Youth Events

NB: Some events are open for participation by invitation only

>> 16-18 April 04: "Global Youth Service Day (GYSD)"

GYSD is an annual global event led by Youth Service America and the Global Youth Action Network. The goals of GYSD are: to mobilize youth and adults; to identify and address the needs of their communities through service; to recruit the next generation of volunteers; and to educate the public about the role of young people as community leaders. For more info visit: <http://www.gysd.net>.

>> 14-30 April 04: "Commission on Sustainable Development"

UN Headquarters, New York. A Youth Caucus at the 12th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12) will be held at UN Headquarters. For more information, contact Catherine Kamping, Youth Caucus coordinator at catherine@youthlink.org. More information about CSD-12 can be found at: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.htm>.

>> 27 April 04 (tentative): "Headquarters briefing youth NGO's"

UN Headquarters, New York. The Secretariat's Programme on Youth will launch the World Youth Report 2003 and brief youth NGOs that participate in the Commission for Social Development on the two special meetings of the General Assembly on youth in 2005. A small preparatory consultation on the General Assembly meetings with other NGOs is tentatively planned for early May. For more info contact Joop Theunissen: theunissen@un.org.

>> 27-29 April 04 (tentative): "Workshop on a Global Youth Media Culture"

UN Headquarters, New York. Organized by the UN Programme on Youth. Even though young people are at the forefront of the information revolution, at the same time they are confronted with the challenge of reconciling the reality of their daily existence with the popular images presented by that revolution. This Workshop will explore the impact of this powerful global media culture on young people. For more info contact Laura Skolnik: skolnik@un.org.

>> June 04 (tentative): "Expert Group Meeting on Youth in Extreme Poverty"

Youth are one of the most affected groups by poverty, preventing them to take part in society and built a stable life for themselves and their (future) families. Unfortunately, little information is available on the number of poor young people around the world and their movements in and out of poverty. The objective of the Expert Group Meeting is to gain better understanding of these characteristics, and to contribute to the development of policies and programmes focusing on young people in poverty. For more info contact Charlotte van Hees: vanhees@un.org.

>> 21-25 June 04: "Expert Group Meeting on Strategies for Creating Urban Youth Employment"

Nairobi, Kenya. This expert group meeting and youth roundtable will be organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with UN-HABITAT and the YEN Secretariat. It will bring together experts in youth employment from different regions of the world, as well as young people from African countries to address the challenges of urban youth employment and young people's hopes for decent employment and reduced social exclusion. For more info contact Julie Larsen: larsenj@un.org

>> 23 June-8 July 04: "International Leadership Workshop for Rural Youth"

Herrsching, Germany. Organized by FAO and the German Federal Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture. This is a biennial event that has been held since 1962, with over 1400 participants from 139 countries. More information can be found at: <http://www.international-herrsching-seminar.de>; or email: [agrар@ble.de](mailto:agrار@ble.de) for more information.

>> 5-12 July 04: "2nd sitting of the International Youth Parliament" Sydney, Australia. The International Youth Parliament is a network of young leaders in 150 countries with a vision of 'youth building an equitable, sustainable and peaceful world'. More information can be found at: <http://www.iyp.oxfam.org>.

>> 11-16 July 04: "XV International Aids Conference Bangkok"

Bangkok, Thailand. This International AIDS Conference with the theme 'Access for all' will have several initiatives for and by youth. A Youth Forum, run by youth for youth, will be held on Sunday 11 July before the Conference's Opening Ceremony. For more info, visit the website: <http://www.ias.se/bangkok/subpage.aspx?pageId=236> or email: youth@aids2004.org.

>> 8-14 August 04: "World Youth Festival"
Barcelona, Spain. After Lisbon in 1998 and Panama City in 2001, Barcelona will host this third World Youth Festival, which aims to take a step forward in cooperation among youth organizations from around the world and bring together 10,000 young people from all the continents. The festival's motto is 'Let's build the world'. More information can be found at: <http://www.barcelona2004.org/festivaljoventut>.

>> 12 August 04: "International Youth Day"
This year's theme will be: 'Youth and Intergenerational Relations - Young People and the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family'. Events are scheduled to be held at the World Youth Festival (see above). More information will follow on the website of the Programme on Youth: <http://www.un.org/youth>.

>> 17-21 August 04: "18th World Volunteer Conference"
Barcelona, Spain. The conference is promoted by IAVE (International Association for Volunteer Effort) and directed by FCVS (Federació Catalana de Voluntariat Social). To highlight the presence of international youth volunteers and IAVE members at the Conference, a Youth Forum will be held on August 17. More info via the website: <http://www.iave2004barcelona.org> and the Iave Youth Forum coordinator Carlos Roca Parada: youthiaveforum@federacio.net.

>> October 05: "Evaluation of the World Programme of Action for Youth"
UN Headquarters, New York. The UN World Programme of Action for Youth will be evaluated by the General Assembly (see also 'News from UN Headquarters'). More information can be found at: <http://www.un.org/youth>.

Interesting websites

>> Site of the month: South African Youth Development Network <<
The Youth Development Network (YDN) is a national network of youth organizations in South Africa. The YDN explores ways of scaling up the impact of youth development programmes, shares information and best practices, secures resources to support youth development and advocates for the interests of young people. Visit their website to learn more about YDN's work. Visit: <http://www.ydn.org.za/>

>> Safe Water, Indigenous Peoples and Environment <<
A new project sponsored by the United Nations Cyberschoolbus - "Pumped Up for Peace" - seeks to rally teachers and students around the world to raise money to build water filtering systems and pumps. Visit: <http://www.cyberschoolbus.un.org/pufp/peru/about.asp>

>> Web special on child soldiers <<
The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (IRIN) has a Web Special on child soldiers. Visit: <http://www.irinnews.org/webspecials/childsoldiers/>

>> Youth resources on-line guide <<

An initiative of the International Council on National Youth Policy (ICNYP) in co-operation with UNESCO INFOYOUTH. The Guide presents profiles, links, and contacts of organizations from various parts of the world which provide different types of resources for youth policies. The Guide provides a manual of guidelines and a select bibliography for research on resources for youth policies. Visit: <http://www.youth-resources.net>

>> UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre <<

The UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, in Florence, Italy, was established in 1988 to strengthen the research capability of UNICEF and to amplify its voice as an advocate for children worldwide. The Centre helps to identify and research areas vital to the current and future work of UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. This site offers many publications on child and youth related issues. See: <http://www.unicef-icdc.org/>

>> Youth Business International <<

Youth Business International (YBI), a unit of The Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum, helps disadvantaged young people realize their ambitions to become entrepreneurs. It also provides the Secretariat for the Entrepreneurship Group of the Youth Employment Network (see 'news from headquarters'). Please visit: <http://www.youth-business.org>

Contact

UN Youth Flash is a free service of the UN Programme on Youth, of the Division for Social Policy and Development, within the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York.

Currently working with the programme are Joop Theunissen (Focal Point on Youth), Girma Mulugetta (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Julie Larsen (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Charlotte van Hees (Associate Expert on Youth Policies and Programmes), Laura Skolnik (consultant), and Eveline Ledeboer (graduate intern, Columbia University School of Social Work).

If you have news that you want to share via the UN Youth Flash, please send an email to: youth@un.org.

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>>>>>>>>>> VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT <http://www.un.org/youth> <<<<<<<<<<<<<<