

TPT Document 19: Ndola Workshop Report

The first workshop for the Tackling Poverty Together project was held in Ndola, Zambia from 27 to 30 October 2005. It aimed to introduce the project team to each other, create a comfortable learning environment and set the groundwork for collaboration between participants throughout the project. The first two days explored youth poverty more generally by soliciting the firsthand experiences and views from youth participants and presenting key perspectives such as chronic and life course poverty, gender aspects, and the static vs. dynamic view of poverty analysis. Then, having reviewed current efforts to include youth in various poverty reduction efforts, participants would then be supported in the development of in-country action plans to further their work upon return to their countries (See TPT Document 8: Ndola Workshop Agenda).

Day One

Session 1: Introductions, team-building, and project overview opening

Rapporteur: Jenny Söderstrand

Heidi Huusko from LSU facilitated the welcoming session. Before the program started, Eva-Maria Sköld from the Swedish youth organization Peace Quest asked participants for permission to film some of the workshop sessions as a contribution to a film about young people's involvement in development. She was available for questions after the session.

All participants then introduced themselves, including the resource people. (See TPT Document 4: Composition of Country Teams). Heidi continued by reviewing practical information about the workshop and facilitated a discussion on participation guidelines. Participants agreed to the following principles for the workshop:

- Accommodate all opinions
- Arrive on time
- Active participation
- Ask questions, we are here to learn
- Be brief and to the point when talking
- No judging of other people
- Communicate your needs to the organisers
- Don't make assumptions.
- Give constructive criticisms to your peers
- We are all "democracy watchers" and responsible for everybody's inclusion.
- Have a sense of humour!

Julie Larsen from the UN Youth Programme then gave an overview over the project, how it came to together and reviewed the four-day programme. She presented the broad objectives, of both the project and the workshop and asked for comments and questions. These included:

Q – Is it possible that collecting information may be a part of implementing the action plans? (Malawi)

A – If it is the case that more information is needed in your country about the involvement of young people in poverty reduction or other collection of data, this can be an important step of the action plan.

Q – Will Governments be formally informed about the action plan implementation – this will help build support? (Tanzania)

A – The Youth Programme, LSU and all participants are in this together – if it is useful for us to write joint letters that explain the project, the genesis of the action plans, what are common objectives are, etc. than this can be worked on together.

Q - How can we acquire better research skills for this work in our countries? What sort of technical support can be provided?

A – We can look into that depending on the action plan and the skills required. Because the Youth Programme is located in the Secretariat and works primarily on substantive policy guidance, it does not have country offices. However, we can look into seeing if technical assistance could be offered through a university or UNDP country office – it will likely be determined case-by-case, need-by-need.

Official opening

The opening ceremony started with the singing of the Zambian national anthem. Opening remarks were provided by Alex Mutale, President, Copperbelt Youth Forum; Leif Holmberg, Vice President, the National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations; Ms. Julie Larsen of the United Nations Programme on Youth, His Worship Mr. Zhino Latife, Mayor of Ndola; and finally Mr. Gabriel Namulambe, Permanent Secretary for the Copperbelt Province.

Ms. Ngasuma Kanyeke, a youth participant from Tanzania, gave thanks on behalf of the youth participants from across Africa.

Session 2 and 3: What is youth poverty?

Facilitators: Ngasuma Kanyeke (Tanzania) and Hanna Norell (Sweden)

Rapporteur: Dumisa Kaponda

The facilitators guided the participants through an interactive group discussion that explored the concept of youth poverty using a number of activities (See TPT Document 8: Session 2: What is Youth Poverty?). The first was an exploration of value statements. Participants were asked to move to different ends of the room if they agreed or disagreed with the following statements:

- Poverty is a natural phenomenon.
- Individuals are responsible for their own poverty.
- The meaning of poverty is the same for girls as it is for boys
- Youth suffer more from poverty than other age group.
- Leaders are to blame for the poverty in the world.
- Corruption is to blame for poverty.
- No one is to blame for poverty.

Next, the facilitators presented a series of slides on “poverty in your own words” that they had collected from participants the night before. Some answers include:

“Youth poverty ...

- ... = Lack of power”
- ... prevents young people from achieving their goals”
- ... is when the basic needs of human beings can not be met such as food, clothes and shelter, but different nations have different definitions of their own poverty”
- ... is the lack of knowledge to sustain the skills and wealth that allow young people develop and become independent”.
- ... is basically what a youth lacks to make him/her productive to their nation and the world as large”
- ... is a condition that deprives youth from having a livelihood in society- no money and no income”
- ... is the exclusion of young people from ownership, mobilization and management of resources whether financial, social or political”
- ...a state in which the people between the ages of 15-24 or sometimes even 30, live poor lives due to lack of employment or economic instabilities caused by wars and fight for power”
- ...a situation where young people access to livelihoods is prohibited by inappropriate policies”
- ... Not being able to decide about your own life”
- ... is beyond not remembering your last meal, and not knowing when will be your next but is denying a young person the opportunity to fulfill their dreams and live up to their full potential”.
- ...lack of basic needs”.

Finally, participants were divided into groups and asked to discuss the following questions: What does poverty mean for young people? / How are they affected? / What causes poverty among youth? / Is it different from poverty experienced by adults?

Answers reported back to the large group included:

1. *What does poverty mean for young people*

- Lack of social resources: health, education & basic needs
- No choices in life – just survival ones
- Little willingness to invest in one's future, feelings of despair

2. *How are they affected?*

- A lack of self esteem, confidence, self reliance
- Leads to involvement in crime, prostitution, drugs, greater risk of HIV/AIDS infection, increased vulnerability, illiteracy and lack of skills
- They have to adopt new responsibilities – e.g. care-giving instead of going to school; having to find a job and contribute to the family income

3. *What causes poverty among youth?*

- Resources not adequately allocated to youth
- Gender disparities
- Unemployment
- War – relocation, school closures, no security
- Pandemics, no adequate health services
- Government policies that are not youth friendly
- Corruption by authorities
- Lack of career guidance – role models
- Laziness
- Unequal resources distribution
- Diminishing resources
- Exclusion because of age

4. *Is it different from poverty experienced by adults?*

- Adults have alternative sources of making their life better unlike youth.
- Adults are in a better position to make decisions & control resources.
- Older people have different aspirations, they are content to “just get by”, whereas youth are more optimistic and ambitious!
- Young people can be exploited more easily than adults.

Other issues that were discussed as deserving of further consideration were:

- To have greater attention to young people that head households
- To have greater attention to young people with disabilities
- To have programmes for reintegrating young people who are in conflict with law, that they contribute positively upon their release in the prisons or police stations
- To recognize and tackle poverty at its source – rural & urban youth face different kinds of poverty
- To put in place coping strategies for youth living through war
- To combat youth unemployment – come up with real jobs for young people

Julie finished off the session by some concepts that the UN uses to discuss poverty. She noted that it is difficult to measure poverty, particularly with young people, because they tend to move in and out of poverty and may not be captured in national statistics. For example, a static view of poverty can be biased against young people as they tend to be more mobile and less likely to be counted in a national household census. She also talked about the concepts of intergenerational and chronic poverty, such that it can be difficult to break the “poverty cycle”.

Ramses made a particular case for the need to look specifically at the situation of young refugees and argued that this needs to be better incorporated in all poverty reduction strategies. He prepared a fact sheet for the meeting that was circulated to participants. (See TPT Document 21: Fact Sheet on Refugee Youth)

Steps for Follow-Up:

This was a very packed session. It was difficult to delve into the subject matter and move beyond generalizations. The gender considerations of poverty were also not adequately explored. However, there is great deal of constructive experience and knowledge in the group (e.g. Ramses’ paper on refugee youth, Fred working directly to create livelihoods for youth living in slums, etc.).

- Julie to work one-on-one with a number of the participants to combine the UN’s research on young people and poverty with their experience and knowledge.

Day Two

Session 4: An overview of current poverty reduction strategies

Presenter: Sher Verick, UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Rapporteur: Hassan Abdi Ali

This session was meant to provide an overview of current poverty reduction efforts, including PRSPs, frameworks for monitoring the achievement of the MDGs, and NEPAD. It included a presentation that captured the following main points (See TPT Document 9: Ndola Workshop: Session 4: An Overview of current poverty reduction strategies):

What are the PRSPs?

- PRSPs first emerged in 1999/2000
- Framework for priority setting (macroeconomic, structural and social policies)
- Facilitate cooperation with development partners (World Bank, IMF and UN agencies) and civil society (should include youth)
- Updated every 3 years plus annual progress report

How are they different from other approaches?

- Recognize importance of pro-poor growth
- Encourage national ownership and public consultation, prioritize public actions
- Linked to public expenditure and development assistance
- A prerequisite for multilateral debt relief (HIPC initiative)
- Monitoring of poverty

PRSPs in Africa (Oct 2005)

- 25 African countries have implemented full PRSPs

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia

- A further 6 countries have interim PRSPs (I-PRSPs)

Burundi, Central African Republic, D.R.C, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau

Why is youth an important issue in PRSPs?

- Poverty – 209 million young people (18%) live on less than US\$1/day, with 515 million (45%) surviving on less than \$2/day (WYR05)
- Youth in Sub Saharan Africa have the 2nd highest unemployment rate (21%) after the Middle East Northern Africa region
- Exacerbated by other dimensions – HIV/AIDS, poor education, conflict/wars
- Youth poverty is multidimensional

PRSPs and Youth Employment

- ECA's Economic Report on Africa 2005
- Out of 21 PRSPs (October 2004) only 11 had at least one core section analyzing youth employment
- But 17 PRSPs contained some goals or actions targeting job creation for young people
- Only 5 had the objective of improving decent work for young people

These PRSPs identify three general areas of action for youth employment:

- Vocational training and technical education
- Macroeconomic policies
- Private sector development

An example of youth in a PRSP - Ethiopia – The PRSP (SDPRP) was completed in July 2002 and covered the following youth related issues:

Health

- HIV/AIDS – capacity building/training, strategic framework for fighting the disease, programs for out-of-school youth and street adolescences, substance abuse
- Family health services

Education

- Improve farming skills
- Non-formal education for those 15+ – basic skills training

Employment

- Ensuring diligence and work preparedness
- Expand job opportunities through skill training

Agriculture

- A cross-cutting issue as part of agricultural development led industrialization

The PRSP Progress Report for Ethiopia was out at the end of 2003 to provide the basis for continuing dialogue with the donor community, private sector and NGOs. In general, progress is good; access to education has increased – the gross primary enrollment rate rose from 64.4% in 2002/03 to 79.2% in 2004/05, but problems remain in terms of education quality.

According to the progress report

- Participatory process – discussion on youth policy was undertaken with youth
- Capacity building for youth associations
- Youth associations have also been working on the issue of HIV/AIDS through prevention, cure and support activities
- Yet the report also acknowledges that youth unemployment remains “a major social problem”

Other example of African countries - Job creation for young people in PRSPs

- Djibouti – development of SMEs, fishing, agro business and tourism sectors
- Madagascar – Setting up different agricultural activities for young people
- Mauritania – Creating a multi service terminal with access to a database for unemployed graduates

Youth are still being overlooked

- View of poverty is static while youth poverty is dynamic
- Lack of data
- Commitments are not specific enough

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The MDGs are linked to 18 targets and 48 indicators. An example of a youth-related target is Target 16 (Goal 8) – “In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth”. However, youth is also a cross-cutting issue.

MDGs AND PRSPs

MDGs have to be embedded into national policies (e.g. work of the Millennium Project). In this respect, PRSPs are the main framework for achieving this in the short-term.

See also: MDGs (www.uneca.org/mdgs) - MDG Progress Report – “The Millennium Development Goals in Africa – Progress and Challenges”

ROLE OF ECA - Who are we?

- Est. 1958
- One of five regional commissions under HQ
- Mandate – support economic and social development of 53 member states, foster regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa’s development
- Reports to UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Following this presentation, participants engaged in a discussion that explored economic policies and what they have researched about youth inclusion in their own country’s poverty reduction strategies. Julie gave each team a copy of their country’s PRSP, as well as UN common country assessments, development assistance framework, and, where applicable, MDG report. The group also discussed the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), which was described as a vision and strategic framework for Africa’s renewal set up by the African Union. Its primary objectives are to eradicate poverty, put on track African growth and sustainable development and halt marginalization of Africa in global economy. It was noted that a NEPAD Youth Programme is being developed.

Steps for follow-up:

The ECA expressed an interest in continuing to work with the project’s participants to provide more detailed thinking and analysis of youth inclusion in PRSPs and to support their related action plans. Potential steps for follow up include:

- Exploring the possibility of establishing a youth group alongside the African Learning Group on the PRSP (which currently coordinated by the Commission).
- Including a youth focus in upcoming Economic Reports on Africa
- Developing a strong youth programme for the African Development Forum V.

Session 5: Youth Involvement in Poverty Reduction Strategies

Presenters: Emmanuel Kamwi, National Youth Constitutional Assembly, Zambia
Hanna and Jenny, Sweden
Rapporteur: William Katende

This session aimed to look specifically at how young people have been involved in poverty reduction and to equip participants with successful examples and ideas to consider in the development of their own in-country action plans. It began with Julie sharing the publication commissioned by UNFPA entitled “The Case for Investing in Young People as part of a National Poverty Reduction Strategy”.

This resource outlines both macro and micro economic arguments for investing in young people, but more importantly perhaps, also suggests ways to present the case depending on the audience.

Following this, Emmanuel from the NYCA presented the case study of Zambia's drafting of the PRSP and the success of civil society in taking part in the related processes (TPT Document 10: Ndola Workshop: Session 5: A Case Study of Zambia: Youth and PRSPs). His presentation noted the following:

The situation of youth in Zambia

- The population of Zambia is estimated at 9.9 million of which 21 percent is composed of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 (*Draft National Youth Policy 2005*)
- The major challenges facing youth in Zambia: unemployment, access to education and HIV/AIDS
- Over 70,000 thousand youth are offloaded on the Job market each year.
- Unemployment in Zambia is generally very high; Out of a population of about 9.9m only 350,000 thousand are formally employed in Zambia.
- The closure of industries in the various provinces due to the open market economy and privatization as well as economic decline has reduced formal employment opportunities for young people.
- Secondary education is accessible for only a few young people while tertiary education is largely inaccessible due to the few colleges and universities in Zambia.
- Most young people have been affected by the HIV pandemic, A lot of young people have lost bread winners as a result of HIV/AIDS while others have actually been infected, this has led to the high vulnerability of Young People resulting into high Youth Poverty levels.
- The majority of youth in Zambia are socially and economically disadvantaged. They have no adequate access to the basic conditions required to develop and live an independent life.

Youth and PRSP formulation

- Zambia adopted its PRSP in the year 2002 for a Two-year period ending 2004.
- The adoption of the PRSP was preceded by a series of consultations among stakeholders including Youth Groups.
- PRSP formulation was a Government responsibility however Civil Society in Zambia created a network for them to contribute to the PRSP process.
- Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) initiated a network called the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) to engage Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the formulation of PRSP.

- Out of 24 CSOs in CSPR Network only three were Youth organisations namely Operation Young Vote (OYV), Youth Advocacy and Lobby network (YALON) and the National Youth Constitutional Assembly (NYCA).
- Participation of Youths in the process was not effective due to lack of coordination among the Youth organisations in contributing to the PRSP formulation process.
- Youth was not considered to be a sector during the formulation of the PRSP, However similarly to gender issues, Youth was considered as crosscutting issue by Civil Society. Youth organisation contributed in Governance, Education and Health sectors.
- Prior to the PRSP process The Jesuit Centre for Theological Research (JCTR) led a vigorous campaign for debt cancellation through the Jubilee Zambia debt cancellation campaign, Several Youths mostly those in the Catholic Church in Zambia participated in the debt cancellation campaigns.
- Civil Society produced a Shadow PRSP document while Government Produced a Zero draft PRSP.
- The two documents were harmonised into a final PRSP. Though Civil Society contribution was captured in the final PRSP, youth issues were not given special attention in the PRSP.

PRSP implementation in Zambia

- Implementation of the PRSP was affected by the Poverty Reduction Growth (PRFG) facilitate which was a funding mechanism for HIPIC countries.
- The PRFG Through the letter of intent with the Government of Zambia called for reduction in public spending as a condition for debt relief.
- Though the PRSP called for attention on pro poor policies i.e. implementing Programmes that directly benefit the poor, Government called not effectively implement these Programmes Employment freeze and shortage of Staff in some government sectors.
- The Health and Education sector were the worst affected with regards to staffing, Over 2000 graduating teachers and medical personnel remained unemployed for Two years amidst serious shortages of staff in the Health and Education sector.
- Access to quality education was comprised due to insufficient teaching staff at Basic, High School and Tertiary level.
- Access to Health services was equally compromised.
- Infrastructure in the Education and Health sector has improved as the result of the PRSP implementation.

Youth participation in PRSP implementation

- Through CSPR Youth have participated in the monitoring of the PRSP implementation.

- The Operation Young Vote and the National Youth Constitutional Assembly have trained young people in participatory methodologies for them to conduct Poverty Assessment surveys in measuring the levels of Poverty.
- Though not focused on Youth some young people have participated in monitoring the implementation of the PRSP tracking expenditure on Poverty Reduction Programmes (PRSPs).
- Effective participation in the PRSP implementation has been affected by insufficient coordination of Youth organisation.

A question and answer period followed Emmanuel's presentation, after which Hanna and Jenny presented a short segment on youth advocacy in Sweden. It was noted that advocacy can take place on many different levels and scales. This discussion on advocacy was later supplemented by Heidi who discussed key strategies that included: Surveying key actors, timing, maintaining continuous contacts, acknowledging the difference between political influence and public influence, being aware of unexpected partnerships, making friends, and differentiating between civil servant and elected officials (both count!).

Session 6: Field visit

Rapporteur: Racheal Kalaba

The late afternoon session was replaced by a field visit to "Watch Your Life Movement", a member organization of the Copperbelt Youth Forum that supports young people living with disabilities through small-scale income generating activities. The group also visited the Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial and learned more about his contributions to the United Nations' peace building efforts. This was an opportunity for participants and resource people to socialize and get to know each other more informally.

Session 7: Presentation of the Commonwealth Youth Programme

Rapporteur: Presley Chiyesu

Nellie Munala of the Commonwealth Youth Programme, Africa region presented her work and possible linkages to the participants' action plans. The Commonwealth has 21 African member countries, including all the countries in this project. They focus on youth between 15-29 years old and currently have thematic interest in the following areas:

- a) Youth networks and governance: They provide assistance with the development of national youth policy and supportive youth councils in member countries.
- b) Youth Enterprise Development: They aim is to address unemployment. There is 40 000 pounds available for each country in microfinance loans. They pay special attention to facilitate loans to young women.
- c) Education and Training in Youth: They have had a diploma course in youth work that operates in 14 African countries.
- d) Youth

participation: They work to increase youth participation in governance and recognize outstanding work undertaken in this field.

Steps for follow-up:

The Commonwealth Youth Programme expressed interest in supporting the action plans as much as possible, particularly in the thematic areas outlined and through its development of new projects.

- The Commonwealth Youth Programme should be kept informed on the project's development and the implementation of the in-country action plans. They should also be approached to join the advisory group.

Session 8 and 9 - Overview of developing strategic action plans and small group work

Rapporteur: Isdory Phocus

Julie began the session with a recap of the programme from the first two days. Through looking at youth poverty as a concept, to exploring current poverty reduction strategies, to identifying opportunities for greater youth involvement, participants now held a number of new tools and ideas with which they could begin formulating strategic action plans.

Julie then opened the session to a series of questions and answer that included:

Q – Will it be possible for the project (UNYP/LSU) to provide support letters to enable access to information and resources in Uganda?

A – Yes, the project's documents, reports, frameworks and objectives can be shared via support letters to various stakeholders asking for their voluntary assistance if possible.

Q – If we set up an action plan for our country, share it with our broader youth organizations and dedicate our time and resources to its implementation, how can the project help us in terms of technical support?

A – This can be worked on case by case. For example, some of you have mentioned that you would like to undertake data collection (surveys, focus groups, etc) to better understand youth poverty and share this information with other stakeholders. In this case, we can try to find expertise to assist in this work (through the UN system, universities, etc).

Q – Would it be possible to provide participants with some form of certificate to recognize their involvement in the project?

A – Absolutely – this can be done for the second workshop.

Q – We need to know some guidelines on what should be the components of our action plan, should it fall within the timeframe of the GPRS?

A – This is a perfect prelude to the next session!

Following the question and answer period, Julie discussed some of the possible steps to creating an action plan and its components (See TPT Document 11: Ndola Session Eight: handouts on SWOT and Developing the Action Plans). She suggested that teams determine goals that can be accomplished over the next three months, but also to take note of longer term goals as well.

Many of the participants were already familiar with a SWOT analysis and this was suggested as a first step towards developing a realistic and concrete action plan. A mock SWOT analysis was done, as a group, for Ethiopia, since that country's PRSP had been previously discussed in earlier sessions. The group then broke out into their country groups and made their SWOT-analysis. After 30 minutes, all countries presented parts of their SWOT.

Julie then discussed how to set some goals to guide the action plans, reflecting the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the SWOT analysis. It was suggested to have a few clear and attainable goals, rather than too many.

The country teams then meet and developed their goals in the action plan, which were peer reviewed before moving on to the next steps to formulating the action plans.

Session 10 and 11: Presentation of the Action Plan for Peer Review

Rapporteur: Leif Holmberg

There were two rounds of review in which country teams presented their action plans for group comment, went back into their smaller working groups to discuss the feedback, and then re-introduce their revised plan to the group as a whole. This created good discussion and constructive criticism that build upon the extensive experience that youth participants brought to this process. The SWOT analysis and resulting action plan for all participating countries are found in TPT Documents 12 through 18: SWOT analysis / action plans for Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Sweden, Tanzania, Uganda, & Zambia.

Below are just some of the initial comments that were captured in one of the review rounds:

Presentation of Kenya's Action Plan:

Leif: Suggestion to reconsider the order of the steps to take: e.g. One should meet government officials after the preliminary research is undertaken and there are concrete recommendations to offer (The response from the team however was that, in Kenya, one should inform government before so they now what is going on).

Julie: She finds the plan very ambitious. She also sought clarification on the first objective and noted that good surveys (that produce reliable results) are quite time consuming.

Presentation of Malawi's Action plan

Thobias found the term “development processes” very wide and suggested that they should be more focused. Gabriel wondered about the link between the goal on lobby on youth recognition and the steps to take, which seems to focus on evolution.

Julie: The timeline noted the timeline seemed a bit tight. She suggested that meetings should with other youth organizations should solicit their input and not just pass down information from this workshop.

Presentation on Tanzania's Action Plan

Gabriel thought it was a wonderful idea to engage at the grassroots level. He also asked how the group would organise resources for one day meeting.

Ndawona found the objective a little confusing

Emmanuel raised the issue of participating in a PRSP that had already been developed. Thobias answered that they will participate in the implementation of the plan and bring youth dimensions to the existing actions.

Julie really liked the idea of creating a more reader-friendly, simplified version on PRSP

Presentation of Uganda's Action Plan

Allan thought it was good to use the World AIDS and other UN international days for a visibility activity. Sher questioned the definition of poverty and suggested working that out so as to have a clear starting point. Julie suggested that all groups may wish to make a preamble about their definition of poverty at the outset of their action plans.

Presentation of Zambia's Action Plan:

Grace liked the idea of advocating for youth issues to be included in the National Development Plan (NDP) as an immediate goal, but suggested the steps be more specific – like who will write the position paper, how will the stakeholder be lobbied?

Julie thought the idea of establishing a network of youth working specifically on poverty reduction issues was a logical first step and could be a helpful lobbying tool. She also liked the idea of having a series of trainings on monitoring poverty reduction programme for youth organization in all nine provinces a lot, but recognized that this was a lot of work and was more a long term goal.

Presentation of Ghana's Action Plan:

Julie recognized the similarities of developing an inventory of youth working on poverty reduction as a common theme to many of the plans. There could be some group support for this work.

Presley liked the idea of distributing copies of the GPRS document as widely as possible since many young people simply don't know it exists.

A few people commented that the third objective (baseline survey to assess poverty among vulnerable groups of youth) was a long term goal that would require technical assistance.

Steps for Follow Up:

The process of strategic planning and peer review is a difficult one and a great deal of learning and exchange took place through the development and sharing of the action plans. The following next steps are noted:

- The country teams will require a high level of support in implementing their ambitious actions plans. This could be the biggest obstacle/frustration in the review of the plans in a mere three-month time. However simple steps, such as letters of support, working with resource people, activating the youth organizations involved in the project, and maintaining communication will help enormously.
- Many of the action plans rest upon a broad definition of poverty. Each team uses the term quite differently, ranging from equating it to employment and income generation to improved access to services to being better informed and able to make self-determined choices. This is largely a result of not having sufficient time to return to the brainstorming discussion on "what is youth poverty" from Day One. There may be value in returning to this discussion – either electronically or the next workshop.
- Several of the action plans have components that relate to mapping and inventory work, surveying, and other forms of data collection. There may be use in developing some specific tools and resources to support this work, in addition to securing technical assistance.
- The resource people present during the workshop were instrumental to the development of the action plans – this circle needs to be kept involved (willingness was certainly expressed) and ideally expanded.

Session 12: Discussion on modalities for future communication and evaluation

Rapporteur: Julie Larsen

In order to communication for the support of the action plans and other aspects of the project, the group discussed and agreed upon the following communication strategies:

- An electronic list serve will be established that is supported by a website platform that will enable chats, posting documents, taking decision polls and reviewing recent messages.
- This list serve will be governed by a few simple rules that will reduce the amount of emails generated and make it easier to process messages. Most people could ensure that they could connect to the Internet at list one a week.
- This electronic communication will be supplemented by conference calls, hosted as needed by the UN Programme on Youth and at no cost to the participants. However, because the group is large,

it was decided to pair up countries as follows: Kenya and Uganda; Sweden, Tanzania and Zambia, and Ghana and Malawi.

- These country pairs will act as peer reviewers for the implementation of each other's action plans and mutually support their in-country processes.
- Mailings of resources and other materials will be sent as required.
- After consultations with LSU's partner organisations, it was agreed that the next face-to-face workshop would take place in Uganda.

The closing session also included a written evaluation of the meeting (See TPT Document 20: Compiled Evaluations from the Ndola Workshop) and a discussion on the expectations and considerations for the next workshop (See section below). This feedback has been reflected in the steps for follow-up.

Steps for follow-up:

- Heidi will establish the email list-serve within the week following the workshop. All action plans will be posted there and people should subscribe to it as soon as they receive notification. At least one person in each group had experience in using list serves and could support members of her team that are less familiar.
- There needs to be greater participation from the participants (now that they have been selected and identified) for the planning and programming of the second workshop. The majority of the session should be youth facilitated.

Considerations for Workshop Two

Before departing, the group did a quick go around of expectations and considerations for workshop two in Uganda. The following ideas were expressed:

- The development of an even more effective action plans, as we will have learned from our attempts to implement the current one.
- The second workshop should allow us to share our experiences in trying to activate the action plan – where some fail, others may have succeeded and have lessons to share.
- Greater participation from other stakeholders – government officials, the World Bank, etc.
- Completion of the short term goals, a willingness to take it to the next level.
- Get more skills for the further realization of our goals
- Enhanced participation because we will have all been working together closely over a period of several months.

- Look at scaling up the project to involve more youth and other stakeholders, linking youth organizations for future cooperation
- To get more feedback on action plan

Other meetings in Lusaka

Following the workshop and return to Lusaka, meetings took place between officials and some of the participants from the country team of Zambia. This included:

The Honourable George Chilumanda, Minister of Sport, Youth and Child Development (Monday, October 31 2005)

The Minister met with Julie (UNYP), Leif (LSU), Emmanuel (NYCA) and Presley (participant to the project). Also present were Ms. Marisayana Hampango, Director of Youth Affairs in the Ministry and Ms. Freda Luhila, Chairperson of the National Youth Development Council. The meeting was an opportunity to personally thank the Ministry for their support to the project (they facilitated participant transportation to Ndola) and to share the outcomes of the workshop in Ndola. Presley shared elements of the Zambian action plan and the Minister welcomed the initiative. Youth unemployment was underscored as a primary concern for Zambia. Further, the Minister briefed us about current legislative process for youth issues and the restructuring of the National Youth Development Council.

Mr. Aeneas C. Chuma, Resident Representative for the UN (Monday, October 31 2005)

The team also met with Mr. Chuma to briefly outline the project and share the youth action plan for Zambia. Mr. Chuma had five very concrete suggestions to offer to us. 1) It may be useful to recap “poverty reduction” as employment creation for young people, as this is one of Zambia’s biggest challenges; this is likely to be more appealing to various stakeholders. 2) It would be very strategic to undertake a “youth sensitivity analysis” of the forthcoming National Development Plan, as young people needs to engage in all aspects of the plan and not solely those identified under the header of youth. 3) An excellent resource and a possible source of technical support would be the statistical office for Zambia, as they have been working to adapt the UN produced tool of DevInfo into a database for MDG monitoring referred to as ZamInfo.4) The national Development Plan is in need of indicators to measure its progress and some of these should be geared directly towards youth and 5) He offered to arrange a meeting with his representative for UNFPA, as that would be a good ally on youth issues within the UN country team in Zambia.

Dr. Deji Popoola, Representative UNFPA, Zambia (Wednesday, 2 November 2005)

Based on Mr. Chuma's suggestion, we met Dr. Popoola and Dr. Sarai Malumo, National Programme Officer of UNFPA. He concurred with the high priority need of job creation for young people. He also offered technical support, though largely in the domain of HIV/AIDS and other UNFPA's programmatic foci. After some discussion of the youth action plan for Zambia, which he recommended become more focussed and outcome-driven, he offered the use of the resource center for the "desktop research" component of the action plan and could potential explore the possibility of having a training on the use of the DevInfo tool for Zambia. In the Northern provinces, UNFPA is also grafting some poverty/employment/income-generating activities to their outreach on HIV/AIDS. Dr. Pocola equally recommended to the team to build their base by strengthening the youth council and to not be pushed by donor or ministry agendas. He advised being comprehensive in their own strategy and planning for [programme for youth and then presenting this to decision-makers.

Ms. Maria-Theresa Malila, Country Programme Coordinator, IPEC/ILO (Wednesday, 2 November 2005)

Ms. Malila works on the International programme for the Elimination of Child Labour on a regional level and therefore has operational activities in some of the countries involved in the project (namely Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia). She explained some of the activities, such as a "Jobs for Africa" project with the Ministry of labour, staff development with the Zambian Federation of Employers, market assessment for business start-ups and other services. She is very interested in reviewing the action plans to see if there are areas, for example small-income generating opportunities, that could be supported through her office.

Step for Follow-Up:

- Each of the official need to be kept informed about the development of the project. Where relevant, the country action plans will be shared in order to possibly identified areas of mutual interest and support.