

Tackling Poverty Together

The Role of Young People in Poverty Reduction

TPT Document 2: Composition of the Advisory Group

Victor Karunan, Senior Advisor, UNICEF, New York

Victor recently joined the Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP) Programme Division at UNICEF Headquarters. Prior to this, he worked at UNICEF's Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok). A sociologist, Dr. Karunan has worked for more than 18 years in South and Southeast Asia in the areas of policy research, NGO capacity building and advocacy in the field of rural development, child labor, macro-economics, participatory research and social development. For many years, he was the Regional Development Advisor with Save the Children UK in the regional office in Bangkok and initiated work on child-centered policies and programs for working children, and conducted trainings and research on child labor in South and Southeast Asia. In recent years, Dr. Karunan he has been working in particular on macro-economic policies and child labor and the role of the private-corporate sector, and has authored numerous articles and other publications in the region and internationally.

Kwabia Boateng, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa

Kwabia Boateng is a Senior Economic Affairs Officer of the UN Economic Commission for Africa. He is currently the coordinator of the African Development Forum (on Youth), an ECA initiative that brings together stakeholders in Africa's development to discuss and reach consensus on policies and strategies for the continent's development. In addition to his functions as coordinator of ADFV, Kwabia is also the leader of the Poverty and Social Policy team of the Economic and Social Policy Division of ECA. His team is responsible for analytical reports on poverty reduction strategies and MDGs on the continent. He has been in poverty and social policy research since his graduate school days at Dalhousie University in Canada. He has keen interest in initiatives by youth for their own human resource development.

Laura Laski, Coordinator of the Youth and Adolescent Cluster, UNFPA, New York

UNFPA's vision of a world fit for adolescents and youth is one in which their rights are promoted and protected. It is a world in which girls and boys have optimal opportunities to develop their full potential, to freely express themselves and have their views respected, and to live free of poverty, discrimination and violence. In such a world, young people would be enabled to make informed, voluntary and responsible life choices, including those regarding their sexual and reproductive health. UNFPA is committed to fulfilling this vision from a holistic, gender-sensitive and youth-centred approach.

A joint project of:



Landsrådet för Sveriges
Ungdomsorganisationer



DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Presley Kanwanda Chiyesu, Executive Director, Zambia Youth Promotions (ZYP), Lusaka

Presley is a young journalist by profession and currently serves as Vice Chairperson of the National Youth Development Council, a body which advises the government on youth issues. In 2000 he founded a non-governmental organisation called Zambia Youth Promotions, with the aim to promote policies that address poverty among young people. ZYP is established in all provinces of Zambia with a membership of about 2,611 and was involved in the creation of the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the National Transition Plan. In 2002, Presley was identified by the Zambian government as one of the young people to undertake a Baseline Survey on the Implementation of the PRSP in the Southern province of Zambia. Most recently Presley has been engaged in the review process of the National Youth Policy and has participated in meetings of the Commission for Africa.

Karen Feinberg, Researcher and consultant, Harvard University, Boston

Over the last 16 years, Karen has been developing, implementing, and managing cross cultural educational, social development, advocacy, media/arts and innovative capacity building programs—with an emphasis on youth, families, women and girls (gender) and under-served populations. She worked with local, national and international non and for-profit systems from small grass roots initiatives to large scale institutions. She has been hired to develop a multitude of special projects, funded by public/private monies and has interfaced with UN agencies, NGOs, government bodies, media, academia, faith-based organizations, foundations, the public health sector, corporations and a multitude of informal global networks to mobilize stakeholders and drive initiatives. Further to her development work, she has recently completed a mid-career specialized Master's program entitled "Risk and Prevention" within Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. This program addresses needs, risk and resiliency matters concerning youth, families and communities—on a developmental, programmatic and policy level.