

UN YOUTH FLASH

Service of the United Nations Programme on Youth

20 December 2004

WELCOME to the UN Youth Flash, a service of the UN Programme on Youth, keeping 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. Below you will read more on:

- News from UN Headquarters in New York
- Feature: Summary World Youth Report 2005
- Calendar of Youth Events
- Interesting websites

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Bob, Joop, Fred, Julie, Charlotte, Sylvie and Eyyub of the UN Programme on Youth wish you a very happy and youthful 2005!

News from UN Headquarters in New York

>> World Youth Report 2005 available <<

The advance unedited text of the Secretary General's World Youth Report 2005 (A/60/61 - E/2005/7) is now available online. It provides an evaluation of the progress achieved in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) since its adoption in 1995. It reviews the global situation of young people with regard to the fifteen priority areas for youth: education, employment, poverty, health, environment, drugs, delinquency, leisure, girls and young women, participation, ICT, globalization, HIV/AIDS, conflict and intergenerational issues. The report will be discussed by the Commission for Social Development in February 2005, before it is submitted to the General Assembly in October 2005.

The feature article in this Youth Flash contains a summary of the main findings and recommendations. To download the full report in PDF format, visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/library/wyr05adv.pdf>

>> UN Youth website available in Russian <<

Besides an English, French and Spanish version, the website of the United Nations Programme on Youth is now also available in Russian. Please visit <http://www.un.org/youth> or go directly to the Russian version via: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/russian/index.html>

>> Youth involved in the Millennium Development Goals <<

An ad-hoc international taskforce of youth experts wrote the report "Youth and the MDGs: Challenges and Opportunities for Implementation", which has been submitted to Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the UN Millennium Project and Special Adviser to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The paper provides examples of existing forms of youth participation, case studies on youth in development, as well as recommendations as to how young people should be included in the implementation of the MDGs at all levels.

Download the paper at <http://www.mdgyouthpaper.org> and submit comments by January 10 via an online form. Your input will be used to revise the paper in time for the 5-year review of the MDGs in September 2005.

>> Order free UN Publications online! <<

The UN Programme on Youth added a feature to its website from which you can easily order your free UN publications. The publications currently available are the "World Youth Report 2003" in English, and the Toolkit "Making Commitments Matter" in English, French and Spanish.

Go to: <http://esa.un.org/socdev/unyin/toolkitwyr.asp>

Feature: Summary World Youth Report 2005

In its resolution 58/133 of 20 December 2003, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide it at its sixtieth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session, with a comprehensive report including an evaluation of the implementation since 1995 of the priority areas identified in the World Programme of Action for Youth. The main findings of this report are as follows:

"Poverty": Over 200 million young people, or 18 per cent of all youth, live on less than one dollar a day, and 515 million on less than two dollars a day. It is unclear if the poverty situation of young people worldwide has improved or deteriorated since 1995.

"Education": Since 1995, the number of children completing primary school has continued to increase, and four out of five young people in the eligible age group are now in secondary school. Also tertiary enrolment has increased; it is estimated that globally, some 100 million youth are currently enrolled in university-level education. The current generation of youth is the best-educated so far. Yet, 113 million children are not in school; this compares with the current cohort of 130 million youth who are illiterate.

"Employment": Despite the fact that youth are receiving more education, youth unemployment in the world has increased to record levels. Youth unemployment, at a total of 88 million, is highest in the Middle East, North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. There is increased pressure on young people to compete in a globalizing labour market.

"Health": Globally, young people are reaching adolescence at earlier ages and marrying later. Premarital sexual relations appear to be increasing. Although early pregnancy has declined in many countries, it is still a large concern. HIV/AIDS is the most prevalent cause of mortality of youth, followed by violence and injuries.

"Environment": Young people continue to be concerned for the sustainable future, although there is a need to increase their involvement in decision-making processes that relate to the environment.

"Drug abuse": There has been an unprecedented emergence of the use of synthetic drugs worldwide, mostly used in recreational settings. Partial restrictions on marketing of alcohol and tobacco have not yet prevented higher use in developing countries; demand of illicit substances among youth

in developing countries has increased to levels typically found in industrialized countries.

"Juvenile delinquency": Delinquency committed by youth continues to be perceived as a threat to society. In some countries this has led to an active incarceration and deterrence policy, which may have reduced crimes committed by young offenders; this policy has however come at a high cost.

"Girls and young women": There has been greater awareness of gender issues among governments. However, equal access to higher education and labour markets continues to be a concern in some countries, negative stereotypes of women have continued to persist, both in old and in new media.

"Participation in decision-making": The past decade has seen growing recognition of the importance of youth participation in decision-making. New efforts to include youth in decision-making must recognize the changing patterns and structures presently occurring in youth movements.

"Globalization": Youth are most flexible and perhaps best able to adapt to and make use of new opportunities offered by globalization. Yet many youth, especially in developing countries, have not benefited. Globalization has had an impact on global youth employment opportunities, and on migration patterns; it has led to deep changes in youth culture and consumerism, and in different manifestations of global youth citizenship and activism.

"Information and communication technology": The proliferation of ICTs that has accompanied the process of globalization in the past ten years has presented both opportunities and challenges for young people. The global digital divide affects young people.

"HIV/AIDS": Ten million young people currently live with HIV/AIDS, mostly in Africa and Asia. The spread of the virus has had a devastating impact on young people's sexual and reproductive health. Young people are particularly vulnerable to contract the virus.

"Youth and conflict": Young people have been disproportionately involved in conflicts over the past decade. Despite the international legal framework to protect minors and prevent their engagement in conflict situations, there has not been an improvement on the ground.

"Intergenerational relations": The share of youth in the world's total population is gradually shrinking, and youth development will increasingly be viewed for the potential benefits it can bring to other generations. Despite its changing structure, the family remains the first social institution where generations meet and interact.

From the findings, ten recommendations can be defined:

1.- With over 200 million youth living in poverty, 130 million youth illiterate, 88 million unemployed and 10 million young people living with HIV/AIDS, the case for a renewed commitment to the goals of the World Programme of Action is clear.

2.- Youth interventions should not be solely driven by negative stereotypes of young people, including delinquency, drug abuse and violence.

3.- Investing in youth starts with children. Intensified commitment and investment now to achieve the Millennium Development Goals will have enormous benefits for the young people of 2015.

4.- There is a strong need to scale up the investments in youth.

5.- Young people should be seen as partners in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

6.- Governments at all levels are encouraged to develop and implement integrated youth policies, making linkages among the different priority areas for youth development.

7.- There is a continued need to pay special attention to various disadvantaged groups of young people, including the special needs of young people with disabilities, young migrants, and indigenous youth.

8.- A set of verifiable indicators, some of which could be drawn from the Millennium Development Goals, would allow for better measurement of progress achieved for young people in the future.

9.- Young people should form part of the delegations to the special meetings of the General Assembly at its sixtieth session that will mark the tenth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth in 2005.

10.- Governments should continuously evaluate their youth policy, and involve young people in the evaluation.

To read the full text, visit:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/nyin/library/wyr05adv.pdf>

With any questions, please contact the Programme on Youth at youth@un.org

Calendar of Youth Events

NB: Some events are open for participation by invitation only

>> 9-18 February 05: "Commission for Social Development"
UN Headquarters, New York. The Commission for Social Development will meet for its 43rd session in February 2005. The review of the World Programme of Action for Youth will be on the agenda, as the Commission will discuss the Secretary-General's World Youth Report 2005, before it is submitted to the General Assembly in the fall of 2005. It is expected that a panel discussion on the global situation of youth will be held on Monday 14 February 2005. To stay updated on the schedule:
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/csocd2005.htm>

>> 15-19 June 05: "African Development Forum V devoted to youth issues"
UNCC, Addis Ababa. The UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) brings together stakeholders in Africa's development - including heads of state, ministers, heads of international organizations, civil society leaders, research institutes and Nobel Laureates - to debate and discuss policy alternatives and emerging strategic issues for Africa's development. In order

to put the issue of youth on the African development agenda, the fifth African Development Forum will be devoted to youth development issues. For more information, please contact: Kwabia Boateng, Office of Policy and Programme Coordination, UN ECA, kboateng@uneca.org.

>> 30 July - 08 August 05: "3rd World Youth Congress"
Stirling, Scotland. Peace Child International (PCI), together with its worldwide network of some 700 partner groups in 155 countries, will organize a third World Youth Congress on the theme: "Young people working for a sustainable world community". The first Congress was held in Hawaii in 1999 and the second in Morocco in 2003. The Congress series provides a forum for young people who are active in development/poverty eradication, to meet and develop their network. Anyone between the ages of 18 and 25 can apply and attendance is free!
For more information, please visit <http://www.scotland2005.org/>

>> 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 during two plenary meetings. More information can be found at: <http://www.un.org/youth>.

Interesting websites

>> UN: Young people and the MDGs <<
To facilitate involvement by young people in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the United Nations Millennium Campaign has developed a special MDG web site for youth. The site provides a platform for young people to learn about the Goals, shows progress made so far, and provides examples of successful youth led projects to hold governments accountable for their pledges they made to make a better place for all by 2015. Visit: <http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/mdgs>

>> UNFPA: Global Youth Partners <<
In September 2003, a group of 38 young people between the ages of 15 and 26 from 27 countries around the world founded Global Youth Partners (GYP). This advocacy initiative, which is youth-driven and supported by UNFPA, aims to rally partners and stakeholders to increase investment and strengthen commitments for preventing HIV infections among young people, especially among under-served youth. Advocacy action plans are presently implemented in the Dominican Republic, Egypt and Panama, with other countries to follow soon. Visit: <http://www.unfpa.org/hiv/gyp/index.htm>

>> ESCWA: Arab Youth Directory <<
The Arab Youth Directory (AYD) is developed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). It gives an online overview of youth NGOs, the UN Agencies working for youth and the Ministries in the area. Besides serving as a platform to connect efforts and projects throughout the region, the Directory aims to enhance youth NGOs' capacity building, to empower them to participate in the formulation and implementation of youth policies, and to enable them to develop mechanism for national and regional cooperation. Visit:
<http://www.escwa.org.lb/ayd/index.asp>

Contact information

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), Fred Doulton (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Julie Larsen (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Charlotte van Hees (Associate Expert on Youth Policies and Programmes), Sylvie Paillet (Administrative Assistant) and Eyyub Hajiyev (intern).

To subscribe and unsubscribe to the information service, please send an email to: youth@un.org, with 'subscribe' or 'unsubscribe' as the subject line.

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