



TACKLING POVERTY TOGETHER: The Role of Young People in Poverty Reduction



Presented by the United Nations Programme on Youth
Division for Social Policy and Development, DESA

Tackling Poverty Together: The Role of Young People in Poverty Reduction

Secretary-General's report on the Review of the Decade
(E/CN.5/2006/3, paragraph 55)

“One important lesson is the need for a participatory process that is country-driven and that promotes ownership as a necessary precondition for the successful implementation of policies and programmes”.

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Objectives of the project:

Overall: To work directly with young people to identify and other stakeholders to strengthen the role of youth in poverty reduction.

- To further an understanding of youth poverty as experienced by young people
- To identify factors to be considered in effective poverty reduction strategies for youth;
- To review existing poverty reduction strategies in Africa in order to identify opportunities for youth involvement

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Objectives of the project (continued):

- To assist young people in developing skills to strengthen their role in national poverty reduction efforts;
- To foster partnerships and collaboration;
- To create a model for strengthening youth policy development that involves cooperation between the youth organizations, Governments and the United Nations system.

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Framework of the project:

- 2 workshops interspersed by a 4-month working period
- Involves youth organizations from Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Sweden, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.
- Main component = participant-driven action plans

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Secretary-General's report on the Review of the Decade
(E/CN.5/2006/3, paragraph 60)

“An important lesson is that widely disseminated documentation and reporting on poverty can lead to broader discussions and consultations with various stakeholders. ...the reporting process can serve as an important tool for awareness-raising, advocacy, alliance-building and the renewal of political commitments at the country and international levels as well as for building national capacity for monitoring and reporting on goals and targets ”.

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Some elements of the youth-driven action plans:

- Develop a national inventory of youth organizations actively working on poverty reduction. (Ghana)
- Identify where youth are missing in the NGDS and to highlight opportunities to work with youth in support of the strategy (Kenya)
- Conduct an informal survey to identify gaps in the capacity of young people to work on poverty reduction (e.g. lack of information, skills, resources, gender issues, etc.). (Malawi)

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Some elements of the youth-driven action plans:

- Support cooperation between organizations in the TPT project through co-training and exchanges. (Sweden)
 - To create and distribute a more simplified version of the NSGRP to youth organisations. (Tanzania)
 - To identify actors and what they are doing to involve young people in poverty reduction - i.e. find allies in government. (Uganda)
 - To establish and mobilize resources for a network of youth NGOs with a focus on poverty reduction in all nine provinces. (Zambia)
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Next steps in Kampala:

- Concerted work on real job creation for young people

“I read in my daily newspaper on page 5 that my government is about to initiate a major public works project. Then on page 12, I read that Africa needs an additional four to five million primary schools teachers. Then a few pages later I see a report of a young entrepreneur making water pumps and turning this into a self-sustaining enterprise. I look over at my friends and I think ... *there is no reason for us to be unemployed.*”

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Next steps in Kampala (continued):

- Extending special forms of micro-finance to young people

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Next steps in Kampala (continued):

- Developing an adult-youth partnership training curriculum
- Training in monitoring the use of public funds

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“If young people in rural areas are supplied with information on funds designated to them, they can hold local authorities responsible for efficient targeting and spending. After the introduction of public expenditure tracking surveys in one country, funds for education provided by the central government that reached their target, shot up from 13 per cent to 90 per cent”
(*Economic Report on Africa 2005*, UNECA)

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Next steps in Kampala (continued):

- Further discussion on the special needs of youth living with disabilities and young refugees
- Skills training on proposal and grant writing

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Some of the “not-so-secret” successful ingredients:

- Partnership with LSU, a strong national youth council
- The existence of the advisory board
- Diversity of youth organizations
- Flexibility

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Some of the “not-so-secret” challenges:

- Bringing it up to scale
- Ensuring its long term impact
- Convincing new partners

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For more information and documentation on the
Tackling Poverty Together project, please visit:

www.un.org/youth

(under Our Work > Meetings and Workshops)

THANK YOU!