



Submission to the
World Programme of Action for Youth

Friday May 6, 2005

This report is the Global Youth Action Network's contribution to the assessment of the World Programme of Action of Youth (WPAY). GYAN gathered data from its regional program coordinators and from an online survey conducted by our partner organization, TakingITGlobal. The online survey consisted of a number of questions similar to and modified from the ECOSOC publication "Making Commitments Matter: A Toolkit for young people to evaluate national youth policy". Lengthier reports were submitted from GYAN members and partners. GYAN is also a strategic partner of the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA), in which we used reports generated from the coalition's material prepared for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS) to contribute to the HIV/AIDS area of this report.

Those who submitted reports for this WPAY review serve as important youth leaders in their region and in their communities. Many work with both NGOs and government agencies. Their opinions and assessments are credible and important because their work is centered specifically on the WPAY topic areas.

Unfortunately due to time restraints and other limited capacities, the report does not address all topics mentioned in the WPAY. From the submitted reports it can be noted that issues like youth employment, health, and education are urgent topics that youth want to prioritize.

Education

Education is a top priority in youth issues. It serves as a crosscutting issue that affects everything from employment to health. Important years of a young person's development are spent in school, if a young person has access to attending one. The call for Universal Primary Education is a goal of all countries and most nations do offer basic education to their citizens; however, feasibility of access depends on things like location (urban or rural), grade level, and socioeconomic status. The right to basic education is a primary focus of children's rights, yet in terms of youth from ages fifteen and on, the continuation of school into secondary and university levels is not adequately addressed. Youth today are questioning what education really means in the context of the world they live in. What should education do for today's youth if it does not always guarantee a job? What relevance do subjects have on the reality of their environments?

Rwanda Case Study: Government Media Campaign

In Rwanda, the campaign called Vision 2020 hopes to see an increase in literacy for all Rwandans particularly for youth who did not have a chance to go to school. Vision 2020 was introduced by the Ministry of Education. The Ministry has committed itself to achieving certain International Development Targets (IDTs), notably Universal Primary Education (UPE) by 2010 and Education for All (EFA) by 2015, with special attention to

girls' education. Rwanda's long-term Vision 2020 puts a particular focus on the teaching of Science, Technology and ICT to achieve the country's vision of becoming a regional telecommunications hub by the year 2020. Higher education will continue to be promoted and expanded. As a result, in 2002, cost-sharing was introduced to make students bear more responsibility for the direct costs of their studies by means of a deferred loan, which would be paid back when students gain employment and their income reaches a certain level.

Educational Recommendations:

- Governments should adopt and promote the concept of 'young people for young people' and encourage young people in schooling to undertake community-based initiatives that encourage school participation.
- Make volunteer tutoring of primary school aged children part of the secondary school curriculum.
- Projects where young people take initiative to enhance education and teach other young people should be showcased, and funding should be made available to replicate them in other communities.
- Ensure young people have the opportunity to contribute to their own curriculum through the creation of student school councils.
- Education should be understood as a means to not just get a job, but to help foster positive generations of youth.
- Educational policy should include Sexual and Reproductive Health, Democracy and Human Rights.

Youth Employment

The issue of youth employment serves as a major concern of youth today. In most of the reports received, employment was the main issue. As youth enter adulthood a means to sustain themselves and to contribute to their families becomes more important. Unfortunately many countries do not have policy mechanisms in place to sufficiently create more opportunities for youth to obtain jobs. GYAN works with the Youth Employment Network (YEN) and the Youth Employment Summit (YES) to help bring issues of youth unemployment to the forefront of many local and international agendas.

Brazil Case Study: Brazil's First Job Program¹

The unemployment rate of young people in Brazil is twice the amount of the overall rate. 3.5 million Brazilian youth are unemployed and that stands for 45% of the nation's 7.7

¹ Report on Youth Employment Brazil by Marcelo Pereira Costa

million people out of work². Noticing the urgency of this topic, the Brazilian Labor Ministry implemented the First Job program in 2003 to address this major issue in their society³. The First Job program is geared towards youth between ages 16-24 who are unemployed and part of families whose per capita family income is less than half of minimum wage. Women, afro-descendants, aboriginals, and former criminals are also given special priority. The purpose of this program is to generate jobs and to prepare youth to have better chances to enter the labor market.

The First Job Program is a major partnership between the Brazilian government and the business sector. Under the auspices of social responsibility and tax incentives from the government, companies agree to contract youth to work in their businesses. Youth then receive first hand experience and training in a certain field. A major goal in the program is to prepare youth to enter and compete in the labor market. For example *Accor*, a world group in hotel and tourism services signed on as a First Job Program partner. *Accor* has been in Brazil for 28 years and has produced 28,000 jobs; they have the capacity to hire some of the program participants especially since the company intends to build 45 more hotel and flat units by 2007.

The First Job Program is an impressive and innovative program that helps stimulate youth employment in Brazil. The program is still fairly new and there has not been sufficient analysis done to assess the program so far. However, youth in Brazil are nevertheless quite pleased with the existence of the program. They acknowledge that the government is giving priority to the subject of youth employment and are working to find solutions. Another positive critique is that the government is trying to learn from their errors and incorporating civil society, like the Youth Employment Network (YEN), in brainstorming for the program. YEN has reported that their recommendations for the development and implementation of the First Job Program have been considered by the government.

Iran Case Study: Tehran Session of the First Regional Conference on Youth Employment⁴

In March 2003, the Tehran Session of the First Regional Conference on Youth Employment was held to address the employment barriers and policies affecting youth in Iran and the Middle East. This event was attended by people from the governmental and nongovernmental sectors. The occurrence of this conference suggests the need to confront youth unemployment as a crucial issue affecting the region. A successful outcome of the conference was the agreement by the Secretary General of the Islamic

² Article from www.accor.com.br/english/firstjob.htm (21-1-05)

³ Notes from Ricardo Berzoini, Minister of Labor on topics.developmentgateway.org/yen/rc/filedownload.do~itemId=1024846 (28-4-05)

⁴ Report on the First Regional Conference on Youth Employment

Conference Organization to establish a micro-credit fund of the Islamic Development Bank for youth employment.

A number of pressing issues and recommendations were highlighted by youth during the various sessions. Present obstacles to youth employment are the government's disregard of the private sector, improper use of oil revenues, and weak connections between training institutes and labor markets. The youth particularly focused on the need for a micro-credit fund that will enable them to generate income and obtain necessary management and repayment trainings.

Youth also acknowledged the importance of incorporating ICT training within the realm of youth employment. Youth proposed to establish a working group between the secretariat, the youth employment network and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They also recommended producing documentaries on the successful experiences related to vocational opportunities -- for youth by youth -- at national and international levels, with the assistance of vocational opportunities support fund.

The Tehran conference produced a number of groundbreaking decisions and plan of actions that will significantly improve the situation of youth employment in Iran and in the region. Unfortunately the lack of implementation of these programs still stands to be a barrier to the progress of youth employment.

Kenya Case Study: Kenya Youth Foundation⁵

The Kenya National Youth Policy was signed into Law in 2003, however none of the initiatives have been implemented. One critique of the youth policy is that it completely ignores the agricultural sector, which is a primary concern of rural youth. Youth in rural areas are greatly affected by poor infrastructure, limited opportunities, and no post primary/secondary training.

The Kenya Youth Foundation⁶ (KYF) contributes to enhancing youth employment by having a Youth Micro-enterprise program that is available to all youth, especially for those that live in rural areas. The Micro-enterprise program identifies internal and external resource capacities of youth and organizes training for resource mobilization and income generating activities. The program consists of a revolving credit fund scheme undertaken by groups of youth. Group members pool resources to earn funds that are later matched by KYF. They can apply for credit from their group funds to start their own income generating activities. The credit is awarded according to one's savings in the pooled fund and the individuals applying must be guaranteed by at least three members to

⁵ Kenya Youth Foundation- Kenya National Focal Point for Global Youth Action Network (GYAN)
Edwyn Odeny Odhiambo Team Leader

⁶ http://www.geocities.com/kenyayouth/kyf_Programme_activities.htm

maintain disciplines and proper use of credit. KYF provides follow-up trainings to ensure that the principles of the project for job creation are followed.

The Kenya Youth Foundation's micro-enterprise program provides positive alternatives for the lack of youth employment in Kenya. The program encourages the growth of development skills amongst youth through informal education and skills training that also promote strategic and sustainable practices amongst groups of youth. The program also teaches youth how to work with partners while empowering them individually. One particular issue KYF is facing in terms of programming is the lack of funds to expand the program.

Youth Employment Recommendations:

- The international community should significantly step up support for and collaboration between major global efforts such as the Youth Employment Network and the Youth Employment Summit Campaign.
- In development of major youth employment initiatives, the emphasis should be on less ownership by the UN and the older generation, and more ownership by local youth and their grassroots networks, as well as local and national level stakeholders.
- Special attention should be placed on skills training programs for out of school youth, especially in the developing world, including street children, orphans, war-affected children and other marginalized young people.
- The significance of ICT training should be acknowledged and national education curriculum should incorporate ICTs.
- There should be mechanisms in place to assess the work of governments in promoting ICTs as a means to enhance education and youth employment.
- The governments should provide subsidies to private investors that create skills and vocational training centers.

Drug Abuse and Juvenile Delinquency

Kenya Case Study: Multiple Sectors Fighting Drug Abuse

Several programs within NGOs and the Government exist for Drug prevention among children, youth and adults. Within the Kenya Police Force there is an anti Narcotic Unit, which leads the fight against drug use and drug transit. The government also established the National Agency for Campaign Against Drug Abuse (NACADA). It was specifically created to fight wanton increase in drug abuse among school children and youth. Rehabilitation programs are run mainly by Government hospitals and established NGO centers. Church based programs on rehabilitation also exist.

Kenya Case Study: Juvenile Delinquency

The program that exists to prevent juvenile and youth criminality is that the young offenders are withdrawn from the society and locked up in juvenile correctional centers

as deterrent to others. The government also encourages promotion of family values where children and youth are taught good behavior such as protection of life, discipline, obedience, love, unity and care for others. Schools also play a role in modeling young people to become better citizens. Religion institutions are promoted to help in building the character of the young people. The family and religious settings are preventive and rehabilitative. These programs exist in both rural and urban centers.

Currently young prisoners are kept in juvenile correction centers where they are treated and rehabilitated. They are also trained on trade skills so that when they come out from those centers they can become self-reliant. The most specific program for them is counseling. Before the current Government came to power, prisons and juvenile correctional centers were treated as high security places. The current government is creating programs that would ensure that prisoners' right to education and basic needs are protected. The law enforcement agencies are undergoing training on human rights, counseling and rehabilitation and post prison supervision for total correction of offenders.

Recommendations:

- Re-integration education and skills training programs should be available to youth after leaving juvenile detention centers.
- Peer to peer counseling programs should be available in drug rehabilitation centers.

Leisure-Time Activities

Leisure time activities are an important component of the growth and development of youth. Activities such as the arts and volunteerism help motivate youth to contribute to multiple elements in their society. GYAN is the secretariat of Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), a series of volunteer and service activities that occur all over the world during the month of April. In partnership with Youth Service America and other international organizations, GYSD is the largest celebration of youth volunteers in the world. Internationally groups in different countries hold service projects in their local communities. Many of these projects also produce long term sustainable projects that go beyond the celebrations of GYSD.

Namibia National Youth Policy for Arts and Culture

The National Youth Policy of Namibia recognizes the cultural diversity and heritage of their citizens through the encouragement of the proliferation of arts and creative practices. In promotion of multiculturalism and peaceful co-existence the focus on artistic activities is used as a means to promote sustainable development through art as well as the empowerment of all youth, particularly those who are physically and mentally challenged. The policy encourages all ministries, government agencies, and stakeholders to become partners in the development and preservation of arts and culture.

The Arts and Culture section of the Namibian National Youth Policy is a unique component that creatively highlights the importance of tolerance and unity amongst the diverse youth of their country. The enhancement of culture through such means is feasible and can attract all kinds of youth regardless of their socioeconomic or geographic status.

Armenia National GYSD Activities

This year Project Harmony-Armenia has initiated several projects highlighting the Global Youth Service Day. In eleven regions of Armenia the GYSD events reached out to 30 events. Also, during the three days 300 schools participated in the tree planting and environment cleaning, around 1000 trees were planted and 200 open doors days were organized. Several visits to elderly people's houses were organized in different regions, as well as a visit to an internet computer center by orphaned children, and support to World War II veterans. In total, 4500 participants contributed to the volunteerism and development of the community spirit, taking part of the events organized in the framework of the Global Youth Service Day. More than 1000 trees were planted, thus serving as an evidence of youth enthusiasm and good will.

Macedonia GYSD Activity

In Gostivar, Macedonia, 10 adult volunteers planned and facilitated an environmental awareness workshop for 40 youth volunteers. The interactive workshop focused on practical ways to improve the community's green spaces and lessen the human impact on the environment. Following the workshop, all participants assisted in a clean-up of the city's largest park. The project was organized by Peace Corps volunteers in Gostivar, with assistance from the municipal government and a local youth NGO (Mladinski Sovet). The GYSD activities in Gostivar met all of its goals and was considered a successful project by organizers, participants, and citizens.

The lasting impact of this project was to generate a spirit of volunteerism and citizen responsibility in the youth of Gostivar, a community whose civil society -- like that of many transitional economies -- is lacking. The youth participated with enthusiasm in interethnic teams (Albanians and Macedonians together, groups that are traditionally self-segregated in Macedonia). The project forged relationships between the Municipality, a local NGO, and individual volunteers. Additionally, materials acquired for this project will be used in future activities of this nature. Discussions have begun on using this event as a springboard for a permanent youth environmental stewardship club.

Girls and Young Women

India Case Study: Education for girls

Education for girls, indigenous youth, and other marginalized communities need to be targeted to promote universal education. Some governments have developed their own mechanisms and campaigns to address these issues.

For example in India, the government has increased allocation of funds to rural and tribal areas. Education is provided for free for women and for people who are living below the poverty line criteria⁷. Also in certain Indian States there is a Mid Day Meal Scheme where an afternoon meal is provided to students to help reduce the costs of the parents. 'Midday meals' is the popular name given to the national scheme launched on 15 August 1995. The official title is the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education. A combination of factors made this programme possible: there was enough food; it was thought that a meal at lunchtime would benefit children; and experts felt that it was important to link primary education with nutrition, health and the government's Integrated Child Development Scheme. The objective was to give a boost to primary education by increasing enrollment, attendance and retention while at the same time impacting the nutritional status of children in primary classes. Target groups for this purpose were all students in primary schools⁸.

Kenya

In Kenya sex trafficking and prostitution is illegal and those who are involved, if found guilty, must face the full force of the law. Although some women are illegally involved, the government is promoting NGOs, CSOs and Faith Based Organizations to take the lead in rescuing and rehabilitating the affected women. This has been quite successful as many women who were involved have been rescued, rehabilitated and are currently involved in income generating activities to fend for themselves and their children.

The Government totally discourages economic exploitation of women and offenders are always charged in the court of law. The government allows civil society organizations and trade unions to be on the look out for individuals, organizations, businesses, firms and industries exploiting women economically, and the necessary steps are always taken. The most recent case involved flower growing industries, which were exploiting women working for them. Through spirited campaigns by NGOs/CSOs, the government came in and the flower industries had to provide women with protective clothes, reform their work schedule, improve their salaries and allow them to proceed to maternity leave without having to lose their jobs.

Recommendations:

- Provide incentives and funding opportunities for NGOs and youth organizations to initiate non-formal education activities targeting girls and women. Where initiatives already exist develop replication strategies and scale up existing initiatives.

⁷ Survey submitted by Indian youth

⁸ on <http://www.developments.org.uk/data/issue28/indian-lunch.htm> (27-4-05)

- Initiate young women into trainers programs in participation and leadership to enable young women to help their communities.
- Encourage young women's civic participation through holding conferences for young women to address issues of concern, and opening other means of formal political participation, such as seats for young women in political parties or caucuses.
- Governments and civil society in peaceful areas as well as conflict zones should provide support, training and a project incubation service to help young women leaders evaluate the needs of their communities and develop successful projects.

Full and Effective Participation

Case Study: Pan-Arab Policy on Youth and Sports

The Pan-Arab Youth policy was adopted by the Council of Youth and Sports Ministers in the League of Arab States on the 7th of September 1983 and then amended on January 30, 2001. The rationale behind the formation of this policy is due to the current world order and because Arab governments have come to understand that a unified policy on youth and sports is necessary to ensure the sustainability of developing the strengths of young people. The principles of the policy are based on: the Arab-Islamic Heritage, the current situation of the Arab World, the essence of democracy, equality, the scientific method of Implementation, and group responsibility. The policy highlights volunteering, regional exposure tours, engaging youth in positive media, and recognizing the importance of military service.

Although this policy has many fallacies, the mere existence of a unified Arab policy on young people is an achievement. This policy in itself is a realization that youth are an important fraction of the Arab Society. This policy, however, needs to be adapted because it does not address the real issues that face young people in the Arab Region such as: Employment, Involvement in Decision-Making, and Rising Number of Drug Misuse among young people and the relationship of young people with other generations. It also does not address the importance of having youth as pivotal elements to the success of this policy, and does not include them in the formation of the policy. Lastly it should state a modality of execution/action plan which ensures the success of this policy -- creating projects that can transmit this policy from a theory to a reality.

Namibia Case Study: National Youth Policy of Namibia

The Ministry of Higher Education helped facilitate the National Youth Policy of Namibia. It was revised in 2001 and it recognizes the fact that youth development programs must be conceived within the parameters of national development. Its goals and policies highlight the rights of youth, education, training, health, agriculture, environment, arts, employment, recreation, and economic participation. It specifically

addresses the obligations of multiple parties such as the state, the private, sector, parents, and the youth to work together to make sure the policy is fully implemented.

The policy also calls for the creation of a National Youth Council which will serve as a major implementing, supervisory, and facilitating agency for the development of youth programs. It is an institutional mechanism which gives youth a voice in their government and over policies directed towards them.

Recommendations:

- Inclusion of youth in re-evaluating the national youth policy
- Creating a database of youth related projects executed by the government and civil society organizations.

HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is not one of the original priority areas of the WPAY. However the growing urgency to confront HIV/AIDS and to promote education about the disease and sexual reproduction is a primary focus of youth around the world. The case studies we have used were compiled from youth reports created for the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on HIV/AIDS. The Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA) has played a major role in collecting UNGASS reports and GYAN serves as a secretariat of GYCA.

Nigeria

Nigeria has a youth ministry and a directorate on youth development that helped establish the National Youth Network on HIV/AIDS. Youth hope that this network will help formulate HIV policies and further advocate for youth management of HIV/AIDS programs in Nigeria. Prior to the establishment of this National Youth Network, youth were not given active participation as stakeholders; they were only invited to forums and used to endorse activities.

Case Study: Youth 2 Youth⁹

Youth 2 Youth (y2y) is a youth-led NGO that promotes peer education to influence behavioral change among youth aged 18-29 in Nigeria. It seeks to position peer educators as key stakeholders in youth health and development through capacity building. Peer education has been quite successful for Y2Y because the young people involved have experience in communication and youth health issues, and they also have volunteers in tertiary institutions, thus making outreach easier.

⁹ Nigeria UNGASS Report submitted by Global youth Partners Nigeria

A successful Y2Y campaign is its campus HIV/AIDS projects that target Nigerian undergraduates. This program hopes to increase the knowledge of undergraduates on HIV/AIDS and sexuality issues and to help them make informed decisions. A publication called NOVA was also published and it utilized a feedback mechanism that allowed readers to ask questions, share opinions and concerns of issues raised in the publication. Through this medium, Y2Y has carried out peer counseling for both readers and non-readers of NOVA.

Another success for the group occurred after the release of NOVA. Y2Y received invitations to give talks in two secondary schools, and a referral was made for an HIV test. Furthermore, various students from universities throughout Nigeria have been requesting NOVA. Y2Y also had nationwide coverage on two television networks during the commemoration of World AIDS Day, which centered on women and young girls' vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.

The outreach efforts of Y2Y in universities are key to the success of the organization. The use of peer education enables youth to easily communicate. However, something that the organization may like to focus on is the expansion of their projects to rural areas or particularly to sectors of the population that are not in school. One evaluation mentioned by the group is that their lack of funding puts a strain on the amounts of youth they can reach.

Pakistan

Case Study: Work of NGOs with Brothels¹⁰

Awareness among urban-based organized vulnerable groups like brothel-based Commercial Sex Workers (CSW) was well covered by many organizations. Most, if not all, organizations are conducting their own monitoring and research operations. Many organizations are working in partnership with each other thus enhancing cooperation and integration and building the capacity of these NGOs. There were some heartening signs of cooperation not only within the country, such as between the GoP Enhanced Program, WB, DFID, CIDA and UNAIDS, but also regionally in the form of a new SAARC project for IDUs. UNAIDS is facilitating the implementation of Three Ones, which are:

- One agreed AIDS action framework that provides the basis for coordinating the work of all partners.
- One national AIDS coordinating authority with a broad-based multisectoral mandate.
- One agreed country level monitoring and evaluation system.

¹⁰ Pakistan UNGASS Report submitted by Pervaiz Tufail, Amal Human Development Network

The work amongst organizations is very inspiring. The active communication of groups who share similar goals and missions will only strengthen the movement to educate people about HIV/AIDS as well as to fight the spread of the disease.

Dominican Republic

Case Study: HIV Prevention Project; PROFAMILIA/USAID

The Dominican Association for Family Welfare has helped create this HIV Prevention Project. The project carries out continuous capacity-building for youth peer educators on topics of: violence, self-esteem, STI/HIV/AIDS, gender, rights, values, stigma and discrimination, sexuality, among others. The group utilizes qualitative and quantitative evaluations and count on monitoring mechanisms. The project contemplates youth initiatives.

Achievements of Profamilia are that they developed a protocol for providing integral attention to adolescents and youth. This has been implemented by teachers and medical personnel. The work of the group has also contributed to the reduction of stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS.

Peru

Case Study: Ministry of Health HIV/AIDS Services

The Ministry of Health in Peru provides a few HIV/AIDS programs that work with specific groups such as sex workers (SW) and men who have sex with men (MSM), and people living with HIV/AIDS. The program called the Vulnerable Population Interventions uses peer health educators to work with SW and MSM in hospitals and communities. Close to 2,000 people a year are reached through this program. There is also another program that focuses on the treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS. The Ministry of Health, along with the National Institute of Health, have begun to treat people using Antiretroviral Treatment of Great Activity (TARGA). Pregnant women who are HIV positive also receive free TARGA treatment until they deliver their child.

Although youth are affected by these programs, the unfortunate reality is that since health care costs money, they are largely marginalized from consistent care. Governmental budget problems affect the feasibility of getting treated by these programs.

India

Case Study: Indian Health Policies¹¹

¹¹ UNGASS India Report, Arindam Roy, Global Youth Partner, India- UNFPA

National AIDS Control Policy (2000) is a crucial component of the national health strategy. While the policy talks about programmes for adolescents like Universities Talk AIDS and Villagers Talk AIDS implemented by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), it does not specifically mention adolescents. The policy does not identify adolescents as a vulnerable group, particularly the 15-24 years age group that accounts for 35% percent of HIV cases. There is a need for recommendations for HIV/AIDS to be included in population education. Also missing is the fact that screening/testing before marriage needs to be pursued as a preventive measure as it has crucial implications for the adolescent group. Voluntary testing needs to be promoted amongst sexually active adolescents during counseling.

National Population Policy (2000) has recognized the earlier invisibility of adolescents and views them as a section of the population which needs to be addressed. It identifies adolescents as ‘under-served’ population groups. The policy calls for interventions in specific areas such as protection from unwanted pregnancies and STDs and encouragement of delayed marriages and child bearing. The policy targets the education of adolescent girls and boys on reproductive health services, especially in rural India. This issue is important because the adolescents and youth are becoming sexually active at an early age resulting in more and more number of teenage pregnancies and risk of HIV infection.

The National Youth Policy 2003 provides a comprehensive overview of youth issues and concerns. For the first time in India, this policy recognizes adolescents by dividing them into target groups, (i) rural and tribal youth (ii) Out of school youth and (iii) adolescent, particularly female adolescents. By distinguishing the age of adolescence, the policy facilitates advocacy efforts for focus on adolescents in government programmes. It gives a special focus to adolescent health, as “they are the most important segment of the population”. HIV/AIDS, STIs, substance abuse and population education finds place in the health component with emphasis on Youth Participation for implementation. A note worthy feature has been the distinction between target-groups of 13-35 years which has been sub classified into (13-19 years, 20-35 years). The elements of participation, access and leadership building have been clearly delineated as objectives of the policy.

A multi sectoral approach is essential to address the diverse needs of Young People. The framework and guidelines of several policies in the country reflect a concerted effort within departments and ministries for better outcomes and synergy. However, the operational mechanism must give a better picture. At present there is no specific policy promoting life-skills-based education in schools. Under the aegis of the Ministry Of Human Resources and Development (MHRD), the Department of Education, life-skills based education programs have been initiated that includes HIV prevention education as a co-curricular program for young people in school under the National Population Education Project.

HIV/AIDS Recommendations

- Encourage youth-led sexual reproductive health education in secondary schools, and integrate HIV/AIDS education into curriculum as a sustainable way of sharing information about HIV/AIDS.
- Use youth expertise to create innovative and effective strategies for the prevention of HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and all diseases.
- Create, mobilize and strengthen teams of young peer educators to visit schools, places of worship, and other structures in their communities.
- Link local youth employment networks to clinics in disease-affected areas.
- Further investigate the role of youth as care givers, and how youth employment strategies can be part of scaling up delivery of medication and care services.
- Resource conferences and existing youth structures as contact points, using them to incorporate youth in national strategies, advise on government policies, and distribute resources.

Conflict Prevention

GYAN is an official partner organization of the Global Peace and Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Conference. Through this conference, GYAN will continue to help facilitate youth participation and intergenerational decision making to further promote conflict prevention. Youth who have experienced the realities of conflict serve as inspiring voices to promote the culture of peace and prevention.

Uganda Peace building: Campus Youth Alliance

Philips Lukwiya helped create the Campus Youth Alliance which mobilized young people who are in or out of school to work with peace-building processes. He organized people from local and international organizations in the two districts of Kitgum and Gulu through information dissemination, peace building workshops and actual participation in peace building activities. The activities included sporting events, cultural events, formal, informal and non-formal peace education with the aim of promoting a culture of peaceful co-existence. Informational materials on the culture of peace and non-violence leaflets, flyers, posters, postcards and hand outs were distributed to various organizations and institutions in the districts in northern Uganda. Philips participated in a radio talk show to engage in dialogue between the rebels and the government and called for an exchange of amnesty with surrender. He called upon all stakeholders to observe fundamental human rights as key principles in fostering peace and democracy without distinction of race, ethnicity, sex or religion, among the people of Northern Uganda and all nations.

The Campus Youth Alliance also organized a radio talk show that encouraged dialogue sessions between the warring parties, community groups, and Acholi and Langi tribes. The Alliance also organized a Peace conference (2000) and an interschool debate that

addressed political and social disparities, in order to bring sustainable peace and development in Northern Uganda. Currently, Campus Youth Alliance has formed solid collaborations and partnerships with some organizations in Uganda such as Gulu Save the children Organization (GUSCO), concerned with the rehabilitation of child soldiers.

Sierra Leone Case Study: Technology for Peace

Andrew Benson Greene, a native of Sierra Leone, recognizes the severity of using child soldiers in conflict. For the past 6 years, he has used the power of educational tele-communications technology tools to help in the healing process. iEARN's global learning network inspired trans-national and trans-cultural online interaction of youth from Sierra Leone and around the world. He also helped facilitate a network of children to create scenarios of 'No War Zones' in their communities. This program was inspired by collaboration with War Child Canada. This network of young people exchange peaceful ideas and concerns for human rights.

Recommendations:

- Political will and the willingness to prevent conflict should be a main priority of governments.
- Governments should enforce Human Rights laws
- The international community, especially NGOs, should serve as active leaders in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
- Stakeholders should adopt and implement the manifesto 2000 for a culture of peace and non-violence that was developed by the UN.
- The Youth should be involved in peace building and conflict resolution both in local communities and in UN assemblies.

Conclusion

The World Program of Action for Youth is an important blue print for action that acknowledges the needs and concerns of youth. It is only fitting that youth serve as firm critics of their own governments. The submitted reports provided a sense of eagerness of youth to utilize their agency in assessing what their governments are doing for them. Hopefully the outcome of the 10 year review of WPAY will yield further progress of youth policies. Also, any additional implementation of policies and programs will only prove to youth that they are major stakeholders in society and they have the power to contribute to their futures.