

INDICATORS OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN RELATION TO THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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The need to correct the tendency of the UN and many governments and INGOs to think of youth development in relation to their role as stewards of the natural environment and resources and to commonly exclude the “living environment” of people as represented by the UN Habitat Agency.

The Living Environment or Habitats of Youth

- Disaggregation of data is needed to enable nations to learn to what extent youth-headed households have:
 - Secure housing
 - Adequate water
 - sanitation
 - etc
- Existence of emergency housing and services for homeless youth

Public Spaces

- Access to free, safe public spaces for self-initiated gatherings and recreation.
- Accessible places for youth to participate in sports and recreation .
- Public spaces designed specifically for ease of access by youth with special needs

Neighborhood Safety and Security and the Supportive Context of Social Capital

Examples of some possible indicators:

- Number of violent experiences observed in past year?
- Number of violent acts perpetrated in last year?
- Helped by others in past year?
- Helped others in past year?

Nature and Natural Resources

- Walking access to green space in the environment
- School curricula on education on sustainable development; not just conservation of nature.
- Local opportunities to care for/manage or take action to improve the non-human living environment.

Youth participation in community-based monitoring of environments, resources, programs and services

- Local government policies that offer youth awareness and involvement in the monitoring of youth well-being indicators? (as a way of guaranteeing relevant indicators and of using them to promote youth development)
- - Information made available to youth regarding the indicators that are being used to measure their lives and opportunity to discuss these locally.
 - Regular reporting of youth indicators to youth at the local level by local governments and opportunities to discuss this (through local government youth councils or schools etc).
 - Opportunities to participate in the generation/identification of additional, locally relevant, indicators for measuring the quality of life (through schools, youth organizations and community-based organizations).