



The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students

NUEYS

What is NUEYS?



The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that stands for the betterment of Eritrean youth. The mission of NUEYS is to organize and build a versatile youth that is aware and proud of their culture, identity, heritage, and history. It also strives to build a disciplined, self-confident, mature, and responsible youth throughout the country, as well as among Eritrean youth in the Diaspora.

NUEYS' Mission

Vision Statement: TO BUILD A VERSATILE YOUTH

NUEYS' mission is to cultivate and produce capable youth by promoting and strengthening Eritrean youth in all aspects of national, regional, and international development processes.

The Role of NUEYS

The role that NUEYS plays in dealing with the youth in general has been consistent with its mission. This mission encompasses the values and ideals of the 30-year struggle for independence and, with the same spirit, NUEYS' mission has been redrafted to include the new challenges faced by the youth in post-liberated Eritrea.

As a mass organization, NUEYS' main role is embodied in the following functions:

1. Advocacy and Lobbying: The first and foremost responsibility of NUEYS is to stand for youth issues in all spheres and at all levels, ensuring that the youths' concerns and special needs are provided for and that the relevant bodies are well aware of those needs.
2. Service Provision: NUEYS seeks to provide services that are in scarce supply, which directly address the youths' problems. However, NUEYS is not there to continue the provision of these services as much as to try to temporarily fill the gap until the responsible body assumes the service.

Experiences and Horizons

NUEYS sees to it that any nationalist youth initiative, aimed at uplifting the youths' role in the society, is materialized. This has been witnessed during the 30 year struggle for independence when youth enlisted in the armed struggle and influenced it in its process. Facing the challenges youth face in post-liberated Eritrea, NUEYS inspires youth and students to achieve the noble aspirations of themselves and their people: to develop and prosper. NUEYS is a platform open to any Eritrean youth or student who has the ambition to make a difference. Union membership is voluntary and demands awareness of enlightened loyalty and spontaneous desire to act and sacrifice for the planning and implementation of integrated actions to realize the hopes and desires of the youth and the nation at large.

Program Areas

- Health
- HIV/AIDS Awareness
- FGM Awareness
- Education and Training
- Campaigns, Seminars, and Meetings
- Value Transfer Program
- Youth Empowerment
- Gender Issues
- Girls Education
- Media Activities
- IHRD Activities (Human Resource Development)
- Organizational Development
- Foreign Branches and International Relations
- Recreational Activities and Sports
- Clubs and Cultural Groups
- Environment and Community Services





Organization Profile



NUEYS organizes the youth as a driving and decisive force for social change. The youth are a dynamic, active, and struggling entity that promotes progress and change that affects the society in a positive way. Knowing that the youth are a strong, steadfast, and reliable backbone for social transformation, NUEYS endeavors to guide them by handling a clearly described strategy. NUEYS remains active, centering on youth-related issues. As such, NUEYS focuses on the responsibilities of organizing and mobilizing the youth through activities in accordance with the youth movement.



NUEYS has a strong representation in Eritrea that will ensure continuing follow-up, support, and oversight, as well as commitment to the long-term, sustainable development of Eritrea. It is committed to placing the tools of development into the hands of Eritrea's youth so that they might be better placed to face the future challenges of rebuilding and developing their country and their own lives.

*...Building
a Versatile
Youth*

Background

The formation of the union was the result of the student movements in the 1950s against Ethiopian aggression, which claimed the lives of hundreds of young people. These movements took the form of nation-wide anti-colonialism demonstrations in 1958, mobilized and organized by Eritrean students. Students in the Diaspora then became part of the group of masterminds who planned and declared the launching of the armed struggle in the early sixties.

The period between May 1992 and August 1994 was a time of reorganization for the union; activities had been temporarily suspended in 1990 with the entire leadership and the youth, in general, mobilized in a national motion that led to the downfall of the enemy in 1991. During its second congress in August 1994, NUEY called for the revision of priorities and objectives to meet post independence challenges. This congress also saw the formation from NUEY to the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), an independent, non-governmental youth and students' organization.



NUEYS Strategies

NUEYS' strategies are holistic and take into consideration all priority issues that concern youth. Key strategies include:

- Working within the large frame of national objectives and policies.
- Integration of a number of activities into packages or program components to deliver multi-messages and multi-services through training, advocacy, and services.
- Efficiency, effectiveness, and self-reliance—NUEYS' precious guiding principles in planning and implementing programs and activities.
- Innovative ways of delivering messages. For example, delivering health messages, through community theaters and through multi-activity youth-friendly centers.



The Aims and Objectives of NUEYS

The overall objective of NUEYS is to contribute to the well-balanced development of Eritrea's youth through the provision of information, education, and services to address all issues affecting young peoples lives. NUEYS also runs with the aim to meet the following specific objectives:

- Building the youth to safeguard the sovereignty of their nation while retaining their culture and identity.
- Lobbying government and other organizations for the benefit of the youth.
- Building a physically and spiritually confident youth with a passion for education and work.
- Preparing the youth to become active partakers in nation building and reconstruction endeavors.
- Preparing the youth to retain the achievements of the martyrs and to pass it on to the coming generations.
- Supporting and promoting the rights and equality of women and fight against negative gender perceptions.
- Advocating and lobbying for children rights.
- Promoting and actively participating in the protection of the environment.
- Ensuring the role of the youth for the promotion of peace and stability.
- Establishing bilateral ties with various regional, continental, governmental, and non-governmental organizations.

NUEYS' Values

NUEYS' programs and activities are guided by its values. The values that NUEYS stands for are as follows:

- The promotion of national unity, tolerance, and respect for principles of democracy and human rights.
- Commitment to the total well being of young people physically, intellectually, emotionally, culturally, and morally.
- Active involvement of youth in decision-making and in development programs.
- Respect for human dignity, diversity, and unity.
- Pursuit of equitable and non-discriminatory opportunities for the development of the unique potentials of young men and women.
- Respect and support for family integration.
- Respect for law and order, and accept the principles of fairness, equality, and unity in everyday life.

Policies

NUEYS' policies are based on general principles that aims at uplifting scattered youth initiative into a coherent group movement. In order to further ensure activity and integrity, NUEYS continuously explores alternative organization forms. As these are guarantees for further flexibility and action it is considered in NUEYS' contribution in terms of policy and practice.

NUEYS is an independent national democratic youth institution that embraces all Eritrean youth to orient them on their national identity, tradition, and history. As such it prepares them to inherit the revolution's gains and utilize it in the nation's reconstruction.

NUEYS aims at preparing youth to become potential resisting force against whosoever opposes the freedom and unity of the Eritrean people. It also works to become a creative front to develop the national culture and fights backward and obsolete values. NUEYS also tries to maintain and consolidate good relationships with all international youth organizations that fight for world peace and justice. Moreover, NUEYS promotes youth participation to enlighten and educate their people, guarantees youth's rights for employment and education, and encourages them to fill their leisure time with fruitful activities.



NUEYS

**Building a
Versatile Youth**

Priorities for Youth Development

NUEYS has established several priorities for youth development. These include:

- Organizing youth through a network of chapters, groups, and sub-groups, in all the sub-regions, and in schools inside and outside the country.
- Conducting training and educational programs on civic education, literacy, vocational skills, gender issues, human rights, democracy, and health issues.
- Providing health services including reproductive health services, clinical services, libraries, hot line counseling services, provision of condoms and contraceptives, first-aid services, and referral cases to hospitals.
- Providing information and publication—campaigns, seminars, and meetings are regularly conducted on current affairs and health issues to disseminate information and share ideas including through newsletters and IEC materials.
- Establishing and maintaining various clubs, cultural groups, recreational, and sport activities.
- Creating employment initiatives and income generating activities (fund raising, trust fund projects).
- Conducting and facilitating of research on youth-related issues for the sake of decision-making and problem analysis.

Cooperation

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), with due consideration and respect to legitimate interests and concerns, wishes to have relations with any youth organization that stand for the well-being of youth. The principle motivation for this would be NUEYS' ethical responsibility and attitude towards the imperatives of the national development process carried out in the context of interdependent networks of regional and international relations. NUEYS is committed to placing the tools for development into the hands of Eritrea's youth so that they can face the current and future challenges of rebuilding and developing their country and their own lives. NUEYS knows that such imperatives of development cannot be fulfilled efficiently and effectively without the establishment of interdependent networks especially at the regional level.

NUEYS pursues its foreign relations objectives in various channels of bilateral forms of communication in accordance with the needs of effectiveness in reaching final objectives. By putting resources together and through sharing ideas, NUEYS and the concerned party would be in a better position to reach its final objectives effectively and efficiently.



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1. Health

NUEYS considers health to be one of the most important issues facing young people in Eritrea today and it strives to analyze health issue from the youth prospective to develop programs and polices which are relevant to young Eritreans. Some of the biggest problems facing youth today include STI/HIV/AIDS infections, early/unwanted pregnancy, abortion, and family planning, and adolescent reproductive health (ARH) in general.

NUEYS plays an active part in addressing and improving youth problems in partnership with sector ministries and various partners such as other NGOs and the UN. As a result of this, NUEYS established 13 youth centers (out of which seven provide clinical services). Each center provides health services and recreational activities. Moreover, the centers give clinical and counseling services, condom provision, reproductive health services, peer education training and out reach programs in communities and schools on HIV/AIDS/STIs. These projects are being implemented in all six Zones/Sub-zones even though the distribution of services and social amenities in all Zones are not yet equalized. Some Zones have attractive recreational youth centers that provide clinical services; others not due to financial problems.

Objectives:

- To contribute to the overall national health efforts in the country geared towards improving the health status of the youth.
- To ensure the well being and health of Eritrean youth focusing on adolescent reproductive health and other communicable diseases.

Activities:

Youth health activities are mostly implemented in youth health centers and youth clubs. The youth centers/clubs provide HIV/AIDS/STI, malaria, and tuberculosis awareness raising and case management, counseling, peer education training, recreational activities, unwanted pregnancies and abortion awareness (consequences and complications), and methods of contraceptive use.

Outreach orientation seminars and programs target secondary school students, school dropouts, out of school females, youth in the military, youth leaders, and sex workers.

Peer educators training and peer education network activities include sensitization workshops on FGM issues, condom usage, ARH training, first aid training, and peer educators/counselors/motivators training, to name a few.

The ARH programs enable youth to participate in ARH general knowledge competitions, establishing health clubs (e.g. first aid, anti-FGM, anti-AIDS, physical fitness), involvement of PLHA in campaigning activities, conducting debates, and motivational rallies. Newspaper articles, radio/TV programs, and spot messages have contributed to the high involvement and participation of youth, and are an effective tool in advocating to the community as well as policy makers. The ARH program has also integrated an effective STD/STI and HIV awareness campaign among the military troops at Sawa military training camp, in the IDP camps, and with returnee refugees. The ARH program is integrated with other recreational youth activities, such as drama, music, puppet, circus shows, and sports. Recently the program collaborated with the national HAMSET (HIV/AIDS, Malaria, STDs, Tuberculosis) control program.

All NUEYS IEC activities and productions were implemented in full coordination with the IEC unit at the Ministry of Health, with school activities coordinated with the Ministry of Education, and community work facilitated in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government.

1.1 Eritrean Social Marketing Group (ESMG)

In 1996, an agreement between the Ministry of Health, NUEYS, and Population Services International, was made to development ESGM. Being that one of the major Ministry of Health policy objectives is to reduce risk of HIV infection through the use of condoms and support services, the Abusalama condom campaign was launched in 1998 by ESGM

Condom Social Marketing Achievements:

- 1998: 1,800,000
- 1999: 2,932,272
- 2000: 2,960,000
- 2001: 3,707,408
- 2002: 4,500,000
- OCT.2003: 4,085,564

Information Education & Communication (IEC)

- 1998: ESGM established an IEC unit to continue and follow up the condom promotion
Principle: Constantly reinforced message
- 2000: ESGM established a research department

IEC Achievements

- Six Mobile Video Units (MVU)
- School Sensitization
- Peer Education
- Presentation to truckers, factory workers and CSW

1.2 HOT LINE SERVICE

- HOT LINE telephone counseling service (Pilot project sep.2003)
- ◆8:00-12:00AM
- ◆3:00-6:00PM
- ◆Plan to prolong it to 24hrs

Target Groups:

- The youth are the principal targets/beneficiaries of the program. These include students, school dropouts, out of school youth, youth in military, and IDPs.
- The community at large could be considered as secondary targets/beneficiaries

N.B. For statistical information on health campaigns refer to table & graph A.

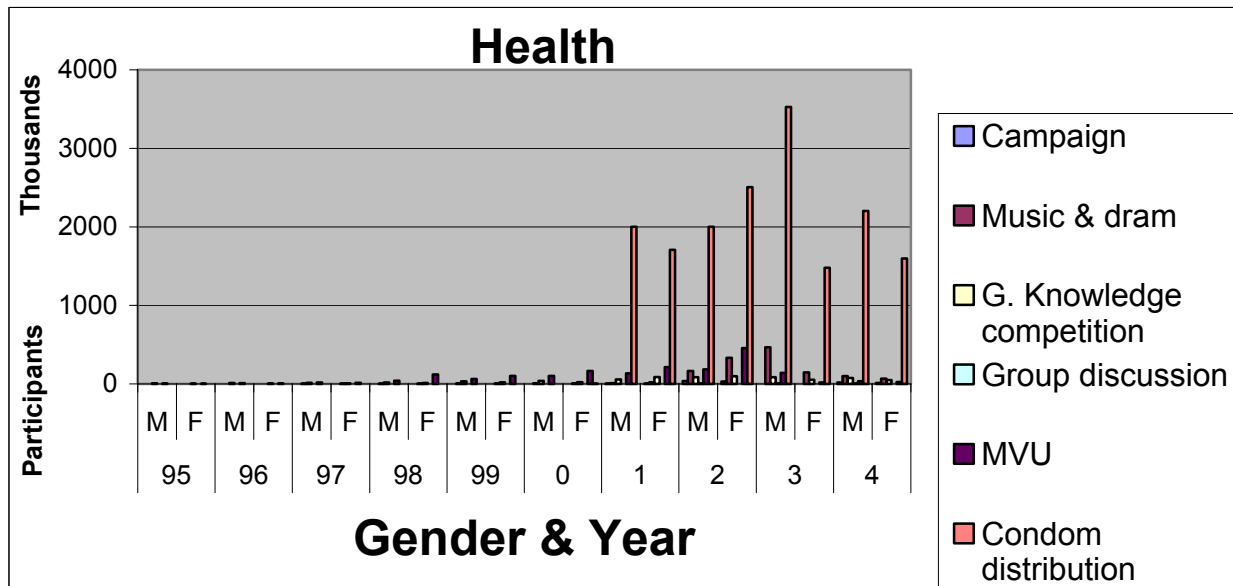
Table A: Statistical information on health related activities

No	Type of activity	No of Participants of Male and Female from 1995-2004																				
		95		96		97		98		99		00		01		02		03		04		Total
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1	Campaign	251	98	289	157	425	241	456	256	528	287	739	587	1204	1725	36311	31580	423	1000	19103	12127	107787
2	Music & dram	421	287	965	723	1530	1643	2570	1254	4682	3268	7556	6541	9802	20173	165608	332851	467300	147350	100622	66455	1341601
3	G. Knowledge competition	7230	2587	11365	4857	15234	7269	19274	11284	32406	19874	38946	23158	57200	86923	84986	98169	86000	52000	74680	48113	781555
4	Group discussion	258	102	247	97	325	124	378	210	456	201	625	235	422	1015	1176	932	1864	766	1759	954	12146
5	MVU	4879	2345	9256	6258	19268	15234	40000	120312	63248	102235	102431	165248	134837	213825	185512	456676	140480	18523	34400	24031	1858998
6	Condom distribution	148	73	159	94	258	193	298	198	354	123	337	2967	2000650	1706758	2001456	2506571	3527358	1479726	2201770	1598230	17027721
	Total	13199	5501	22296	12193	37050	24708	62985	133519	101687	125995	150646	198741	2204129	2030427	2475071	3426789	4223433	1699367	2432349	1749918	21130003

N.B.

- Campaign: refers to the campaign through health experts, peoples living with HIV/AIDS and seminars
- Music and drama: refers to campaign on HIV/AIDS, malaria, FGM, family planning, tuberculosis awareness raising, unwanted pregnancies and abortion (consequences and complications) and etc made through music and drama

Graph A: Graphical information on health related activities



2. Education

Education is vital for any nation. NUEYS believes as key that fits to any lock. That is why it applies education as a baseline in all its activities. Certainly, it shows incredibly development both in frequency and qualities the past ten years. NUEYS also uses the media to deliver its educational messages.

Despite the continuous efforts conducted by the Eritrean government to improve the educational status of the Eritrean people and the Eritrean youth, many of the youth are still unable to get access to proper education, especially females. This is due to absence of schools in their surrounding, proper access to information, traditional barriers, and absence of awareness of the importance of education. Missing opportunities to education will negatively impact the youth's role in national building as well as it will deprive them from achieving their dreams and striving for their rights and needs.

NUEYS implements several programs that address these problems like organizing adult literacy classes for disadvantaged youth like young mothers, nomadic youth and young IDPs; providing extra tutorial classes among traditionally disadvantaged young girls and raising awareness among their communities; raising awareness of the constitutional and basic human rights among the Eritrean youth especially among the disadvantage small ethnic groups; assisting in creating a more favorable, peaceful situation of living among the youth in areas of high probability of violence like IDP and returnee areas; and awareness raising in issues

concerning the future lives of the Eritrean youth like the landmines, malaria and TB situations in Eritrea. Moreover General Knowledge Competition, Debating and “Zagre” Prize (for those who have scored a 4.0 GPA in the Eritrean Matriculation Exam for university entrance) has been launched continuously in the past ten years.

Objectives

- To contribute to the overall national efforts geared towards improving the educational status of youth.
- To address gaps of access to educational information regarding issues concerning the Eritrean youth and their future like their rights, landmines awareness, etc.
- To ensure the balanced, equal opportunity of education among the Eritrean youth regardless of sex, ethnicity, or religion.

Activities:

- NUEYS runs a Girls Education Project nation wide. This project has provided tutorial classes for 1440 academically poor girls in all the six administrative Zones and campaigns for community sensitisation to girls' education. Also, this project includes research studies on community attitudes towards education.
- NUEYS conducts a girls' Scholarship project that is aimed at supporting 80 academically outstanding girls who fall under traditional and economic pressures in their environment. This project currently targets youth in the areas Tio, Assab (Southern Red Sea) and Senafe (Southern Zone)
- Constitutional and Human Rights Education project: NUEYS is a member of the National Constitution Committee and has been very active in advocating for the rights of youth, women, and families. NUEYS has also been responsible for providing comprehensive education for youth and the public on the Eritrean constitution, including constitutional and human rights. NUEYS has organised programs and campaigns during the Eritrean liberation movement, the rights of different ethnic groups in Eritrea, and the rights of children. Activities included a public education campaign, production of relevant IEC materials, workshops and discussion groups among youth and the public, along with the active use of available media outlets such as radio and television for information dissemination.
- NUEYS has created awareness activities about landmines for children living in areas affected by the problem. Awareness is conducted through campaigns, IEC material distribution, and folk media (plays, dramas, and puppetry shows)

➤ In Eritrea, the estimated illiteracy rate is 80 percent, the majority of which are females. To address this problem, NUEYS has initiated this program in the year 1996 for providing adult literacy programs to illiterate youth especially females. In the year 1997, NUEYS has designed its own adult literacy curriculum in Anseba region for 40 farmers, which was including 2 subjects (language and arithmetic) with an additional attached on-the-job practising bee keeping. The program continued till the year 1999 when the MOE designed the “National Adult Education Curriculum.” Since that time, NUEYS started co-ordinating its adult literacy programs with the MOE. After the end of the war between Eritrea and Ethiopia, a program was designed in 2001 aimed at providing basic youth-adult literacy education. The program targeted in particular internally displaced mothers (400 young mothers), IDPs, who lost access to basic educational services.

➤ Peace Education

- 72 students & 8 teachers in 4 Junior Schools in Haykota, Goluj and Tessenai sub-zobas received training courses on IEC/IPC
- Peer Education
- Leadership Courses

Afterwards, students assist in conflict resolution in schools.

Targets groups

- Academically weak female students
- Outstanding girls students with economical problems
- Disadvantaged illiterate youth
- Youth in the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ)
- Young people in disadvantaged ethnic groups

2.1 Projects

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):

Specific Objective: To eradicate deep-rooted FGM practices.

Activities:

- Community awareness campaigns like drama and music shows, radio programs, and video shows
- Training youth trainers on IEC/IPC
- Establishment of 15 FGM clubs in high schools, and

➤ Distributing IEC materials, posters, scarves, T-shirts, caps, aprons, etc.

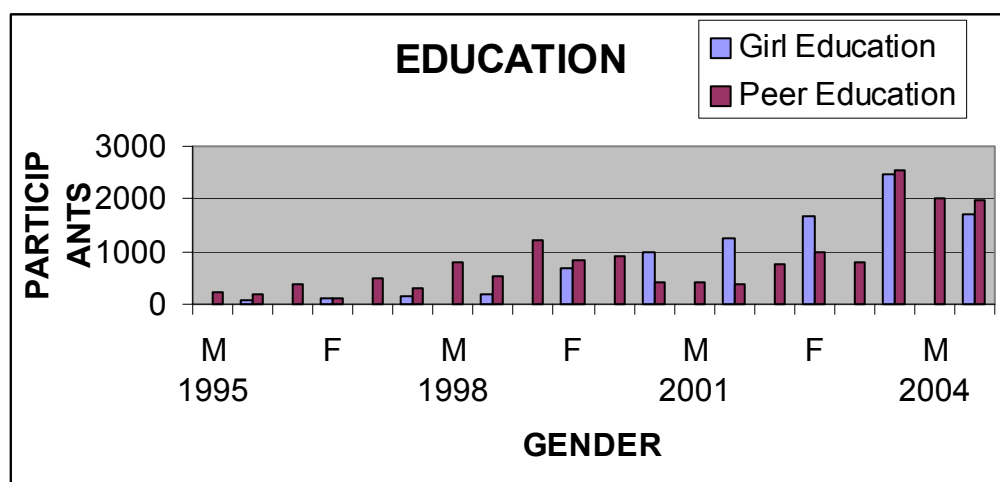
Target groups: Junior and secondary school students, teachers, parents, and the general community

N.B. For statistical information on health campaigns refer to table & graph B.

Table B: Statistical information on Girls and Peer education

N°	Type of activity	No of Participants of Male and Female from 1995-2004																				Total
		95		96		97		98		99		00		01		02		03		04		
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1	Girls Education		87		123		157		191		678		976		1245		1671		2473		1720	9321
2	Peer Education	232	175	367	98	479	320	789	521	1231	827	898	413	414	389	756	1000	811	2540	2019	1986	16265
	Total	232	262	367	221	479	477	789	712	1231	1505	898	1389	414	1634	756	2671	811	5013	2019	3706	25586

Graph B: Graphical information on Girls and Peer education



3. Environmental Management

Nowadays environmental pollution & other environmental harmful elements cause enormous hardship and suffering in the world in all aspects of the life. In the same context, Eritrea due to its geographical location (in Sub Sahara Africa) consecutive colonial periods, its natural forestation has been tremendously harmed. NUEYS, taking into consideration increasing global warming issues, depletion of ozone layer, and pollution as whole, introduced environmental management activities include forestation, terracing and encourage the use of gas as an alternative source of energy instead of using wood. Moreover, NUEYS has organized

campaigns, a national cleaning day, and bi-weekly activities in terracing and planting trees in order to recover the badly affected environment.

3.1 Integrated Environmental Education

NUEYS environmental educational program has contributed highly on the conservation and improvement of Eritrea natural environment, as well as to a more healthy society, by providing community education and training on sanitation and hygiene. Major activities have included youth participation in planting, road construction, weeding, harvesting, establishing student environmental clubs, and public awareness campaigns. NUEYS' main achievement in its integrated environmental program was the initiation of an annual national cleaning day. It also distributed many IEC materials to raise the awareness of the people and youth's in particular on the consequence of destruction, pollution and the need to conserve and preserve the environment; for detail informal see table below.

3.2 GAS CAMPAIGN

Eritrean natural forests have been seriously damaged and has caused major soil erosion due to over-consumption of wood, over grazing, deforestation and unwisely practices and use of forests during colonial times. To reduce the over-consumption of wood as fuel, NUEYS induce a new alternative. In 1999, NUEYS introduced natural gas energy to compensate the wood energy. In the past 5-years, enough gas and supplies has been imported from abroad and gas distributors has been established in all the administrative zones in Eritrea.

NUEYS not only stress on importing enough supplies, but also encourages people to use gases by establishing a credit system

3.3 National cleaning day

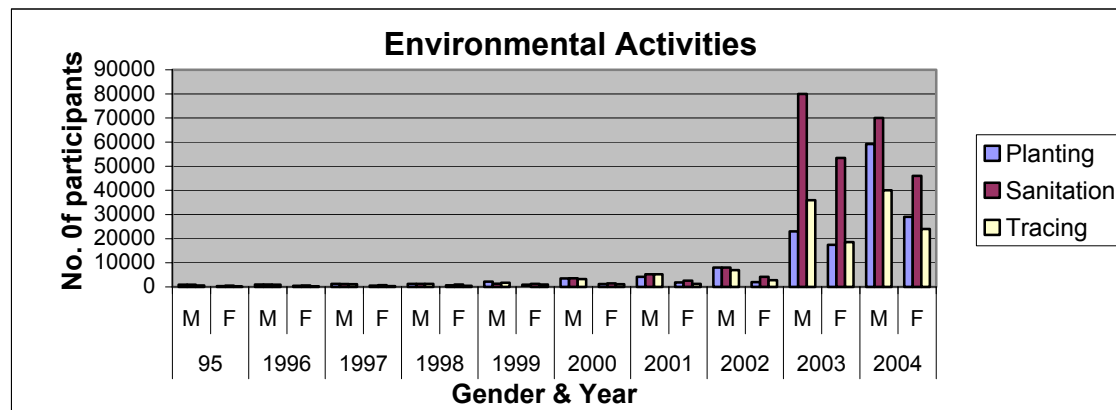
From 1998 onward, NUEYS implemented an annual National Cleaning Day. This has adapted as a norm in the society. Thousands of people, especially youths, get involved in cleaning the streets and their city, town or village and disposed garbage is collected to local dumps with the help trash cans, brooms, cleaning materials and trucks. This is accompanied by community raising activities i.e. distribution IEC materials and

broadcasting on the importance of conserving and respecting the environment through radio and television and newspaper.

N.B. For statistical information on health campaigns refer to table & graph C.

Table C: Statistical information on Environmental activities

N ^o	Type of activity	No of Participants of Male and Female from 1995-2004																					
		95		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		Total	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F				
1	Planting	912	352	999	456	1250	546	1278	651	2213	897	3524	1210	4154	1874	8028	1996	23000	17466	59199	29088	159093	
2	Sanitation	928	539	1024	628	1163	741	1254	965	1352	1240	3587	1456	5247	2587	8000	4202	80000	53462	70000	46000	284375	
3	Tracing	625	123	938	258	1100	360	1254	456	1758	965	3250	1120	5241	1254	7000	2804	36000	18570	40000	24000	147076	
	Total	2465	1014	2961	1342	3513	1647	3786	2072	5323	3102	10361	3786	14642	5715	23028	9002	139000	89498	169199	99088	590544	



Graph C: Graphical information on Environmental activities

4. Youth Empowerment

NUEYS works with great effort to enhance youth's credibility, participation and to elevate their capacity through awareness campaigns and vocational training. NUEYS believes in the significance of creating greater particular skills to assist in the national construction program. Also, NUEYS seeks to empower the youth Eritrean through on-the-job training, to build self-confidence among the youth, and to enlarge their psychological make up to have a good acceptance on the society.

Moreover, NUEYS was able to establish a group of adult allies called "*Friends of Youths*" in all subs zones.

As indicated in the above, young people need be empowered to have an active voice in their community. NUEYS has a youth empowerment program that aims at equipping the youth with project planning, implementation, and evaluation tools, for effective leadership in their society. Decision-making and leadership training is included in this program. Twenty-five seats were won by youth in the national and regional assemblies

NUEYS conducts many training programs that are evenly distributed among all of Eritrea's regions. Such programs aim at exploring the capacity of the youth. NUEYS and its partners make a high investment on activities that aim to enable the youth to learn professional skills and to become eligible for productive employment.

Also it conducts many programs that aim at empowering the youth so that they can have an active voice in their community as well as in their society as a whole. Some of these programs include job attachment programs, youth micro-credit schemes, vocational skills training and youth leadership programs.

Objectives:

- To empower the Eritrean youth with skills and capacity (technical and financial) to enter the business environment.
- To create young leaders that can lead the country in the future.

Activities:

- **Micro Credit Scheme Program** targets disadvantaged youth such as school dropouts, displaced youth, disabled youth, and young women who are single mothers. The program provides short-term businesses related courses and provide them with micro credit scheme facilities. Twenty youth have benefited from this pilot program
- **Care and Support Project** is a pilot program that tries to improve the quality of life of people infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS by training the beneficiaries in a short-term traditional dressmaking course and by providing necessary equipment and materials. Fifteen PLWHA (people living with HIV/AIDS) are benefiting from this program
- **Pastoralists Program** – Pastoralism is a major profession and means of income in the Horn of Africa. It plays an essential role in the national economy and food security. Eventually this project will provide a

basis for evaluation and analysis to prove the importance of Pastoralism and agro-pastoralism in Eritrea. This program is targeting Gash Barka region and is aiming at enhancing the establishment of pastoralists forums that can advocate for their own rights and hence encourage the flourishing of local civil society organisations. Recently 3 pastoralist forums have been already established in the areas of Shambouqo, Forto Sawa and Goluj.

- **Folk Media and Entertainment projects** – Since 1995 two circus groups and since 1999 four puppetry groups have been established. These groups make unique income generating activities through indoor and outdoor entertainment programs, conduct awareness-raising campaigns. The awareness topic they address are FGM, HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria, STD's, gender issues, human rights, girls education, sanitation & hygiene, Red Cross principles, landmine awareness, and more.
- **Vocational Skills Training (VST)** – Vocational skills training aims to create greater practical work skills among young people and by doing so aims to assist in the national reconstruction program and raise the quality of life of young Eritreans through on-the-job training. The project is especially designed to assist school dropouts and young people that belong to economically disadvantaged families. Training include metal work, wood work, mechanics, general electricity, welding, plumbing, computer skills, typing, sewing and tailoring, as well as cooking. Till now more than 1500 youth were participating in the program, where 38% of them are females. Sixty three percent of these youth succeeded to find a permanent job opportunity.

Targets groups:

- School dropouts
- Youth that have economical problems
- Young people affected or infected by HIV/AIDS
- Youth returnees (from The Sudan) and deportees (from Ethiopia)

5. Gender

Much of the Eritrean society remains traditional and patriarchal and most women have an inferior status to men in their homes and communities. The Government consistently advocates to improve the status of women, many of who played a significant role. Since independence women have enjoyed a legal right to equal educational opportunities, equal pay for equal work, and legal sanctions against domestic violence. The

law provides a framework for improving the status of women. In practice, males retain privileged access to education, employment, and control of economic resources, with more disparities in rural areas than in cities.

NUEYS tries to empower young women by increasing awareness of gender-based violence and rights of women in families and society at large. It also tries to improve access to and quality of health services. NUEYS conducts Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) sensitization program through a rights based approach, a gender empowerment sensitization program, a women leadership training program, anti-FGM clubs in high schools, and awareness on domestic violence and early marriage.

Overall Objectives:

NUEYS Gender Program focuses mainly on domestic violence, early marriage, and female genital mutilation. Its main objectives are:

- To produce gender sensitive, well balanced Eritrean youth.
- To improve the participation of females in the higher positions within and outside NUEYS.
- To help protect the fundamental human rights of women and children (e.g. FGM, early marriage).
- To sensitize and enhance the awareness of the society on the decisive role of women for the socio-economic, political and cultural transformation of the country.

NUEYS Gender Policy

Specific Objectives:

- To design and draft NUEYS' organizational gender policy.
- To build the organizational capacity to create gender awareness within and outside NUEYS.

Activities: -

- Case study on the reasons behind the absence of female leadership base in Eritrea.
- Draft NUEYS policies to gender inequality within the organization
- Orientation workshops to NUEYS head quarter and regional heads
- TOT gender training course to 24 youth leaders
- IEC materials production and role model workshops

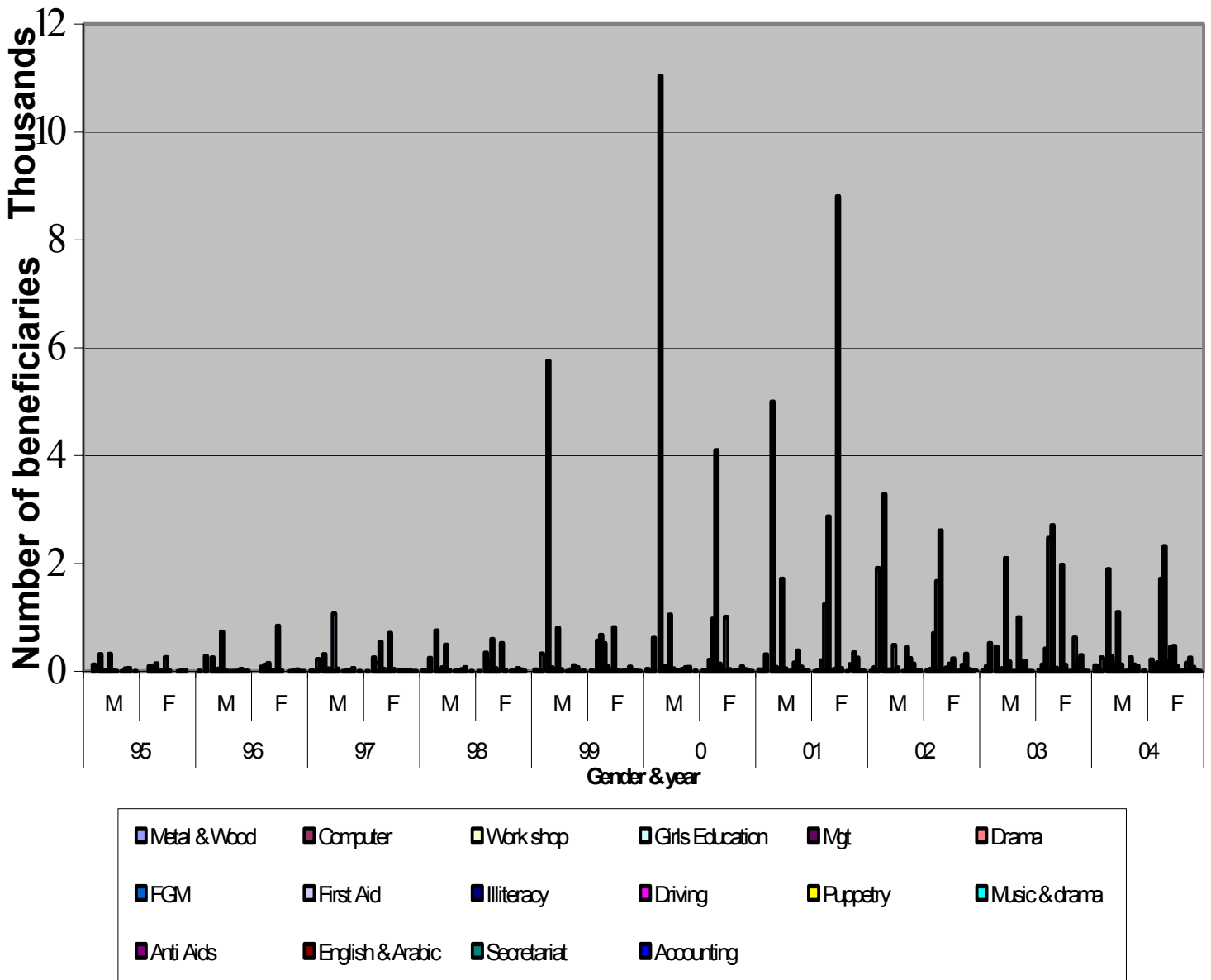
N.B. For statistical information on health campaigns refer to table & graph D.

Table D: Statistical Data on Types of training and youth participants

N°	Type of training	No. of Male and Female Trainees from 1995-2004																					
		95		96		97		98		99		2000		01		02		03		04		Total	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
1	Metal & Wood	-	-	11	2	17	5	26	3	34	16	48	13	37	6	12	23	27	29	111	220		526
2	Computer	-	-	1		3	1	5	2	8	4	7	10	25	30	76	44	96	125	92	109	614	
3	Work shop	125	96	286	87	230	259	250	345	328	567	621	213	317	204	1914	705	523	421	258	168	5344	
4	Girls Education	-	87	-	123	-	157	-	191	-	678	-	976	-	1245	-	1671	-	2473	-	1720	8085	
5	Mgt	320	146	258	154	320	549	755	600	5758	526	11043	4100	5000	2874	3284	2611	455	2710	1895	2321	36293	
6	Drama	15	9	30	22	55	48	34	61	75	90	106	141	82	23	34	50	37	68	275	190	1006	
7	FGM	23	12	50	28	46	14	75	29	47	43	40	56	60	46	20	73	61	52	146	452	1006	
8	First Aid	325	264	739	843	1072	712	493	522	803	818	1050	1013	1720	8810	490	140	2100	1976	1100	472	18871	
9	Illiteracy	24	16	15	18	52	45	32	29	43	25	55	42	58	63	70	239	184	124	128	91	1054	
10	Driving	3	-	6	1	-	-	-	2	-	4	8	6	4	2	2	3	3	7	5	8	48	
11	Puppetry	1	2	7	2	5	14	10	9	3	8	20	16	10	5	7	8	6	7	9	12	100	
12	Music & drama	6	3	5	4	14	9	25	14	34	18	45	22	163	131	452	124	1000	624	260	159	2980	
13	Anti Aids	56	15	8	14	20	16	41	59	112	85	75	93	384	349	245	327	200	195	125	254	2247	
14	English & Arabic	60	25	45	38	62	23	78	34	74	19	80	42	87	256	142	42	200	300	100	82	1331	
15	Secretariat	-	2	3	7	-	5	2	8	3	16	-	8	3	25	8	25	4	16	-	18	107	
16	Accounting	5	2	9	4	5	3	4	2	9	4	11	6	13	11	27	12	6	3	14	6	109	
	Total	963	679	1473	1347	1901	1860	1830	1910	7331	2921	13209	6757	7963	14080	6783	6097	4902	9130	4518	6282	79721	

Graph D: Graphical information on type of training & Number of beneficiaries for Youth Empowerment

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



6. ENTERTAINMENT

NUEYS exerts a lot of energy to create leisure time programs for its target groups in order to avoid indulging in bad habits, and to use their time in a fruitful ways. This gives great emphases on their psychological and physiological strength. These activities includes indoor and outdoor activities, folk media such us circus, puppetry etc. For a detailed take a glance at the table below.

- **Media-** NUEYS' radio program began broadcasting in January 1999, every Saturday for one hour. At the moment, NUEYS broadcasts twice a week – Tuesdays and Saturdays. NUEYS operates a recording studio in which the radio program is produced. All reporters and broadcasters are youth addressing youth topics such as health, relationships, youth and culture, as well as letters from listeners, general knowledge and amusement shows.
- Folk Media and Entertainment projects, including 2 circus groups and 4 puppetry groups, make unique income generating activities.

NUEYS uses various information systems in its efforts to inform the society (generally) and the youth/students (in particular). The goals of the information network are to enhance the youth's awareness about the union's activities and conditions, to provide a forum for contact and exchange views, to raise the youth's national consciousness, to enhance its relationships between the youth, and to inform the union's branches outside of Eritrea. Media activities include the following:

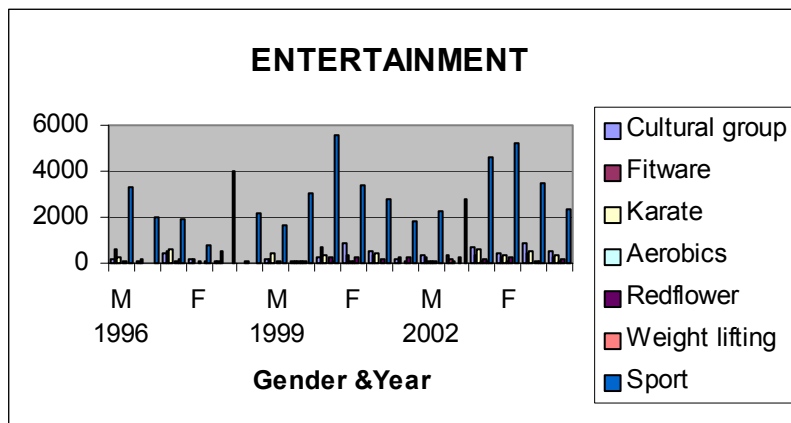
- Youth radio program twice a week (NUEYS' activities and other information and to provide a forum of communication and exchange of views)
- Photography and documentation of NUEYS activities
- Producing information, education and communication materials (IEC)
- TV programs that target youth and students (Educational program on physics, chemistry, English, and mathematics for high school students)
- Production of films (mostly on health issues)
- Website (a means of communication between the youth in and out the country and post NUEYS' and NUEYS' foreign branches activities)

N.B. For statistical information on health campaigns refer to table & graph E.

**Table E: Statistical Data on Types of clubs and Number of participants
In entertainment**

N°	Type of activity	No. of Male and Female Trainees from 1995-2004																		
		96		97		98		99		00		01		02		03		04		Total
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
1	Cultural group	154	53	460	200	88	32	167	101	250	854	487	157	378	323	690	470	870	543	
2	Fitware	606	180	500	174	60	20	175	75	711	314	342	272	235	211	356	257	453	235	5176
3	Karate	230	15	652	40	480	70	420	60	362	93	452	32	125	46	580	354	490	386	4887
4	Aerobics	0	43	0	60	0	30	0	70	0	121	0	61	45	37	71	48	39	69	694
5	Red flower	77	25	47	41	25	10	95	98	280	273	156	259	121	223	178	249	111	199	2467
6	Weight lifting	0	0	155	58	0	0	0	0	49	0	0	0	37	13	45	8	65	32	462
7	Sport	3343	1982	1921	802	4015	2145	1675	3080	5566	3400	2769	1785	2300	2752	4589	5213	3458	2354	53149
	Total	4410	2298	3735	1375	4668	2307	2532	3484	7218	5055	4206	2566	3241	3605	6509	6599	5486	3818	73112

**Graph E: Graphical information on Types of clubs and Number of participants
In entertainment**



NB: - Red flower and fitwari are clubs with members that falls with age range 8-11 having an Objective to have a good understanding in the culture and heritage of their country.