In this issue:

Core Award Activities
1. Youth Participation
2. Knowledge Dissemination
3. Marking and Branding
4. Youth and Conflict: EQUIP Seminar Series

Education For All: Youth Challenge Grants
Jamaica
South Africa
Uganda

Haiti: Out-of-School Youth Livelihood Initiative

Afghanistan: Literacy and Community Empowerment

Administrative Updates

EQUIP3 / Youth Trust Consortium:
Education Development Center, Inc *
Academy for Educational Development *
Catholic Relief Services *
International Council on National Youth Policy *
International Youth Foundation *
National Youth Employment Coalition *
National Youth Leadership Council *
Opportunities Industrialization Centers International *
Partners of the Americas *
Plan International Childreach *
Seasame Workshop *
Streetkids International *
World Learning

EQUIP3 / YOUTH TRUST NEWSLETTER
Issue No. 4 ° July 2006

EQUIP3 / Youth Trust is a USAID-funded mechanism created to improve the quality of education and learning opportunities for youth and young adults, with specific expertise in addressing livelihood preparation, youth assessment, and youth involvement. EQUIP3 / Youth Trust is comprised of the Education Development Center, Inc. and 12 partners, who are a cohesive group with diversified capacities and areas of expertise.

Core Award Activities

1. Youth Participation
To foster positive and meaningful youth participation in development programming, EQUIP3 / Youth Trust articulates its approach and activities around key components that aim both to better focus on what youth can do and to create an environment conducive to youth participation.

EQUIP3 received 12 nominations through the targeted Youth Advisory Committee nominations process. Lisa Austin, the YAC coordinator, will conduct interviews with the nominees for the first round of screening.

Rana Bilal Ahmad, the EQUIP3 YAC member from Pakistan, is in North America from July 19th until August 20th. As of late July, he was studying at the Fletcher School and will attend the World AIDS Conference in Toronto in August. Lisa is working on the two-year evaluation of the YAC. The evaluation will examine the effectiveness of the YAC members’ contributions to EQUIP3.

2. Knowledge Dissemination
EQUIP3 Website
A new page on Livelihood Preparation and Workforce Development is now available on the EQUIP3 website. This page includes an overview of the EQUIP3 approach to youth livelihood as well as links to related resources. For more information, please visit:
http://www.equip123.net/webarticles/anmviewer.asp?a=468&z=38

3. Marking and Branding
The marking plan and branding strategy was created for the EQUIP3 core award. After the GLG annual retreat EQUIP3 team members will meet to standardize marking across EQUIP3 core and associate award deliverables.

4. Youth and Conflict: EQUIP Seminar Series
Marc Sommers, the EQUIP 3/Youth Trust Youth Research Specialist, presented his new publication, Youth and Conflict: A Brief Review of Available Literature to USAID on Wednesday, July 12th. Over 30 people were present for the event. The notes from his presentation will be available on our website mid-August. For more information please contact Lisa Austin, laustin@edc.org
The Education for All/Youth Challenge Grant Program (EFA) was created to build the capacity of organizations and agencies to provide relevant skills training for out-of-school youth. It helps USAID Missions analyze and strategically address youth basic education and livelihood issues. The EFA program also helps to build partnerships that address youth issues in an integrated and creative manner. The program is active in three countries:

**Jamaica:**
EFA Jamaica continues start-up activities recruiting young men in Grants Pen. This initial stage has demonstrated clear community interest in this initiative and positive youth response towards the program. Given the high rates of violence in this community, and considering the scope and nature of this project, the original target population was young men at risk of engaging in violent or gang activity. However, findings from start-up activities showed that youth who were already engaged in gang activity showed greater interest in the project than expected and have demonstrated an open attitude, expressing and sharing their current situation and interests. These findings provide key information that helps project staff delineate activities to better serve youth in Grants Pen.

**South Africa:**
July marks the end of the first half of the 2006 City Year South Africa (CYSoA) program, which is its second year of implementation, engaging 70% more youth than the first year. July was also the start of the recruitment process of young men and women for the next program year, which will begin in September of 2006.

High placement rates of youth who participated in the program last year are encouraging. As of July 2006, 98 of the 109 Service Leaders who graduated from the in December of 2005 were in placements, representing a placement rate of 89%.

The breakout is as follows:
- 53 are employed – of this number, six are employed as Team Leaders at City Year
- 3 have been placed in learnerships
- 12 are studying
- 4 have established micro-enterprises
- 25 are Senior Service Leaders at City Year
- 1 is in vocational training

**Uganda:**
During July, EFA Uganda launched a new TKL sports league in Kumi, one of the two districts supported by the EFA Youth Challenge Grant Program. Despite a strong rain storm, the commitment and enthusiasm of youth and community leaders made the launch successful.

Based on a presentation given by Mr. Trevor Dudley, founder of TKL and Ms. Ann Dudley, founder of TKL Foundation during their trip to Boston, Education Development Center, Inc. released an article about TKL’s history, mission, and activities. This article has raised the visibility of the EFA Uganda Youth Challenge Grant Program. Please visit [http://main.edc.org/newsroom/features/soccer.asp](http://main.edc.org/newsroom/features/soccer.asp) to read the complete article.

For more information, please contact Alejandra Bonifaz, abonifaz@edc.org
Haitian Out-of-School Youth Livelihood Initiative: IDEJEN

In October 2003 the “Haitian Out-of-School Youth Livelihood Initiative: IDEJEN” was launched by EQUIP3 with support from USAID. The project is designed as a learning project to better understand the situation of out-of-school youth, age 15-20, in Haiti and the approaches for education and livelihood preparation that can be offered to this target group.

Following the graduation ceremonies in June 2006, IDEJEN concentrated its efforts on the accompaniment phase and the finalization of some evaluations in vocational training for the first cohort of 450 youth. The team strengthened their efforts in building partnerships with the business sector for internships for the graduated youth as well as job placement and orders placement to self-employed youth.

The remaining 225 youth scheduled to graduate in December 2006 are continuing their training. The six-month evaluation of their basic education training took place in July and the youth started their technical training. The national meeting for the validation of the orientation guide for youth programs was held July 26-27th at the Hotel Montana. Patricia Gill from NYEC gave a presentation at the event.

Two major reports, the IDEJEN Interim Assessment Report and Realities and Opportunities for Haitian Out-of-School Youth have been edited and are currently under review by USAID.

For more information, please contact: Melanie Beauvy, mbeauvy@edc.org

Afghanistan Literacy and Community Empowerment

The Literacy and Community Empowerment Program (LCEP) provides rural Afghan communities with tools to identify and address their strengths and challenges, develop effective institutions for local governance, and increase economic productivity. It is a community-driven program that supports the articulated learning needs of Afghan communities in the areas of literacy, governance, and economic empowerment. The program also includes strategies to ensure women's full participation.

Cornelia Janke is currently in Afghanistan observing the LCEP project. Please stay tuned for updates.

For more information, please contact Cornelia Janke, cjanke@edc.org

Administrative Updates

Travel
• Cornelia Janke traveled to Afghanistan during the month of July.
• Patricia Gill from NYEC was in Haiti from July 26-27th to validate the orientation guide for youth programs.
• Due to heightened tensions in some countries where we operate, Paul Sully and Chuck Wattles traveled to Newton for security training during the last week of July.

Planned Trainings and Events
• The Global Learning Group retreat will take place August 7-9. Chiefs of Party will be present at the retreat, as will EQUIP3 and EDC staff.