EQUIP3 / YOUTH TRUST NEWSLETTER

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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.

We are currently in the midst of the Youth Advisory Committee nomination process. Should you know of any young leaders who would be a good candidate for the YAC, please contact Lisa Austin at laustin@edc.org for a nomination form. The submission deadline has been extended to July 15, 2006.

2. Knowledge Dissemination

EQUIP3 Website

Melanie Beauvy, Tracey Hatcher and Lisa Austin have been working together to update the EQUIP3 website. In an effort to provide more information related to Leader Award activities, the website team has developed a new page on Youth and Conflict, which includes .pdf documents and links to publications such as the new publication Youth and Conflict: A Review of Available Literature by Marc Sommers; and Youth, Microfinance and Conflict case studies, a joint research project with AMAP.

To view the new Youth and Conflict page, please visit http://www.equip123.net/webarticles/anmviewer.asp?a=429&z=33.

3. Year Four Work Plan

The EQUIP3 workplan for the fourth year of activity has been submitted to Clare Ignatowski, the CTO for the mechanism. During this fourth year, emphasis will be on documenting lessons learned.

For more information, please contact Paul Sully, psully@edc.org
Core Award Activities, continued

4. Youth and Conflict: EQUIP Seminar Series
Marc Sommers, the EQUIP 3/Youth Trust Youth Research Specialist, will present his new publication, *Youth and Conflict: A Brief Review of Available Literature*, to USAID on Wednesday, July 12th. The presentation will take place from 1:00-2:30.

For more information, please contact Lisa Austin, laustin@edc.org

5. Youth Community of Practice
The Youth Community of Practice provides a forum for professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to gather, consolidate, archive, disseminate and exchange information, knowledge, ideas and best practices, particularly related to the incorporation of youth participation in USAID development projects. The Youth Community of Practice consists of an informal body of volunteer members, reached through a global list serve and Washington-based chapter. Both forums include USAID staff, youth practitioners outside of the Agency, and youth themselves.

Among the messages this month:

• A Call for Proposals for individuals interested in facilitating a training session on strategic planning at the Youth Coalition Annual General Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
• The YES Campaign Invitation to the 3rd Global Youth Employment Summit YES Kenya 2006 (Sep 13-16) & call for submission of papers.
• A call for nominations for the third annual Development Gateway Award.

To subscribe to the YCoP, please send an email to Alejandra Bonifaz (abonifaz@edc.org) or Gustavo Payan (gpayan@edc.org). If you already are a member of the YCoP, we encourage you to disseminate documents, reports, articles, and other pieces of information that will help the YCoP fulfill its mission. You can also nominate someone by sending the person’s name and e-mail address to Alejandra or Gustavo, who will send an invitation for the nominee to accept or decline.

6. Microfinance Seminar
Drawing on lessons learned from a range of USAID supported pilot projects, speakers and participants in a session of USAID's Learning Conference, "Microenterprise Development in a Globalizing World," entitled “Youth Inclusive Microfinance: Meeting the Needs and Aspirations of Younger Clients” spoke of key lessons they had learned, important gaps in methodology and approach they had encountered, and then shared some guidance on effective practices. This session was moderated by David James-Wilson, EQUIP3 Associate Director for Applied Research.

Panelists were drawn from a diverse range of practice settings and areas of specialty, and they engaged a similarly diverse group of participants in a lively dialogue around three core questions:
1. How best to understand (appreciate, differentiate, market segment) the youth population -- their existing activities, capabilities, assets, needs, aspirations, and vulnerabilities?
2. How to frame/conceptualize the continuum of interventions (from social investments at one end, to commercially viable services/products at the other, to some blend of the two in the middle) + re-visit the ideas of readiness and access?
3. How to determine who (individual, peer, household, community, NGO, MFI, government) to involve and how (what institutional structures, what program models, what policies) best to implement?

7. Journal of Education for International Development
Youth development practitioners are encouraged to submit articles for upcoming issues. Issue 2:3 will focus on aspects of early childhood development. Interested contributors are encouraged to visit the JEID website (http://www.equip123.net/JEID/) for further details. The deadline for submission is August 1, 2006.
Education for All / Youth Challenge Grant Program

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:** Addressing urban boys’ education and employment challenges

In order to be more responsive to the realities of the community and be better equipped to implement the project, PACT, the implementing organization of the EFA Jamaica project, has established a post in Grants Pen, the project site. Continuing previous efforts to strengthen the relationships with the local community at Grants Pen, in late June, EFA Jamaica started the recruitment process to engage, identify, screen, and interview young men who may potentially participate in the program. Start-up activities have been successful in reaching out to both at-risk youth and youth who are already engaged in gang activity. Once participants are defined, project activities will be launched and PACT and EQUIP3 will continue to work together under technical collaboration.

**Uganda:** Using sports as a convening mechanism for peace building and to increase primary school enrollment.

Mr. Trevor Dudley, founder and director of The Kids League (TKL), and Ms. Ann Dudley, founder of The Kids League Foundation, gave a presentation at EDC on June 6th. Additional meetings were organized for TKL to establish a direct line of communication with the EFA South Africa project and with academia to explore ways to bring together field work and academic research.

The Kids League (TKL) continues to carry out project activities engaging youth in sports while delivering positive education messages and encouraging healthy living. While the project moves forward, TKL and EQUIP3 are finalizing a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP) that will serve as a mechanism for continuous formative assessment and will feed into the shared learning agenda of the EFA Youth Challenge Grant Program.

**South Africa:** Adapting a viable US youth-service model on African context to address employment, civic engagement and education issues.

A presentation by Teboho Mahuma, the Executive Director of City Year South Africa (CYSsoA) took place at USAID Washington on June 12th. The City Year project is helping to build South African democracy through national youth service. The national service program is aimed at developing a generation of leaders, utilizing young people as resources to address critical needs in schools and communities, addressing youth unemployment and promoting a culture of youth service.

Ms. Mahuma described the service, training and exit opportunities for youth participating in City Year’s national service program. School-based Community Impact Teams composed of 10 -12 youth serve in after school and community development programs. In 2006, 200 youth service leaders are serving 3,000 primary school children in 15 schools throughout Johannesburg. The teams operate after school programs four afternoons a week and two mornings a week they work with community organizations that serve children.

The program description also included the challenges and outcomes of adapting this project within the South African environment, private sector involvement in the program, and a well-developed learning component for participating youth. The presentation was followed by an enriching discussion session that included thoughtful comments and questions from representatives of various offices within USAID.

City Year’s Annual Meeting was held June 13-17 in New York City. Youth from City Year South Africa (CYSsoA) and all US-based sites participated as well as prominent guest speakers participated in the meeting. Also in June, CYSsoA carried out a field trip for approximately 15 American families who visited South Africa and engaged in service learning activities along with participating youth.

For more information, please contact Alejandra Bonifaz, abonifaz@edc.org
West Bank/Gaza: Palestinian Youth Empowerment Program

As indicated in previous newsletters, the Ruwwad Palestinian Youth Empowerment Program is working with USAID to adapt its youth development program to support the delivery of humanitarian aid. This shift has come about due to the political changes that have occurred in the West Bank and Gaza over the past four months. The Ruwwad program is currently awaiting word from USAID about what, if any, humanitarian aid activities will be approved by USAID. Stay tuned.

For more information, please contact Chuck Wattles, ewattles@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.

Recent Highlights

- 450 youth graduated from their Non Formal Basic Education and Technical Training programs at Community Based Organizations in Port-au-Prince, Jeremie and Mirebalais.

The 450 youth from the first class of out-of-school youth supported by the IDEJEN program graduated after a year of non formal basic education, technical training and life skills instruction. The graduation ceremonies took place on June 12 in Jeremie; June 13th in Port-au-Prince; and June 14th in Mirebalais. In addition to receiving certificates of completion, youth who passed the test given by the National Institute for Professional Training (INFP) received certifications in their field of training. Two hundred new youth are have enrolled in the training program.

The annual IDEJEN retreat was held in Haiti from June 15-16. Present at the retreat were representatives from USAID Haiti; IDEJEN project team members from Washington, DC and Haiti; local entrepreneurs; representatives from government ministries and national institutes related to youth, education and employment; and youth who had participated in IDEJEN activities. This was an opportunity for staff and stakeholders to reflect on achievements over the past year and strategize for future activities in support of out-of-school youth in Haiti.

Local entrepreneurs met with the IDEJEN staff on June 28th to discuss possibilities for collaboration. Several of the entrepreneurs expressed interest in the accompaniment work that IDEJEN has planned with the recently graduated youth. The next step is to secure commitments from entrepreneurs to hire youth as interns or apprentices in their businesses.

Maureen Malley, Business Manager for the EDC Global Learning Group, spent three days with the IDEJEN staff and conducted an internal audit which found that financial systems were in order.

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

On Monday, June 19, the Women’s Teacher’s Training Institute gave a presentation to the Department of Vital Literacy on assessment methodology and the LCEP student database currently under construction. The presentation was attended by 19 senior level employees of the Assessment Division and the Evaluation Division, as well as the Deputy Minister of Education and Dr. Nooristani, the head of the Department of Vital Literacy.

Participants’ questions indicated that they were well aware of many aspects of adult education pedagogy, and interested in learning more about the assessment methodology in practice. The Deputy Minister also re-emphasized the need for staff members to learn about the assessment methodology and begin the process of implementation in their classes. Attendees were invited to visit LCEP classrooms in Parwan, both during normal teaching times and during the assessment week in mid-July.

During the latter part of June Leader Teachers organized, packed and sent out 7,500 student assessment booklets to all Learning Centers in Hirat, Bamiyan and Parwan.

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

Administrative Updates

**Personnel**
- Katharine Bennett, a graduate student at the Monterrey Institute for International Studies, has joined the EQUIP3 team in DC as a summer intern. Her duties are related to knowledge management and research.

**Travel**
- Patricia Gill from NYEC will travel to Haiti to work with the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Civic Action on the validation of the *Key Elements for Youth Programming* guide.
- The Global Learning Group retreat will take place in August. Chiefs of Party will be present at the retreat, as well as EQUIP3 and EDC staff.

**Planned Trainings and Events**
- Marc Sommers will be the featured speaker at the EQUIP Summer Seminar Series on Wednesday, July 12th. He will present his new publication, *Youth and Conflict: A Review of Available Literature.*
- An EQUIP Communications Workshop is set for EQUIPs Chiefs of Party in South Africa this July.