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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 \* Sesame Workshop \* Streetkids International \* World Learning

***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**

*Fostering positive and meaningful youth participation in development programming.*

YAC members are working on a research paper on youth councils. Sam (Uganda) and Carrie (Kenya) are collecting information in the field through interviews. Anike Akridge, EQUIP3 intern, is currently working on case studies and Lisa Austin is working on a literature review.

### **2. Youth Community of Practice (YCOP)**

*Linking professionals and practitioners to help design more effective, sustainable youth programs, and promote youth participation.*

The USAID Youth Community of Practice (YCoP), moderated by EQUIP3, hosted a brownbag presentation featuring Trevor Dudley and Karen Cassidy of The Kids League Uganda at USAID on March 19, 2007. The topic of this presentation was "Exploring a Monitoring & Evaluation Approach in a Sports for Development Project." The Kids League was one of the three awards granted under EQUIP3's Education for All Youth Challenge Grant Program

To join YCOP Links, contact Chuck Wattles at [cwattles@edc.org](mailto:cwattles@edc.org), or Lisa Austin at [laustin@edc.org](mailto:laustin@edc.org).

### **3. EQUIP3 Website**

- The Cross-Sectoral Youth (CSY) Project web page is now available. To view the page, please visit at

<http://www.equip123.net/webarticles//anmviewer.asp?a=528&z=36>.

- The YAC biography page has been updated. You can view the updated page at

<http://www.equip123.net/equip3/yac/bios.htm>.

## Associate Award Activities

### West Bank/Gaza: Palestinian Youth Empowerment Program

*Empowering youth in the West Bank and Gaza through community involvement in humanitarian services, in preparation for active, productive roles in the working world, civil society and family life.*

#### Ruwwad Success Story: Spring 2007 Scout Training Campaign

Rope-tying; whistle signals; compass navigation. A strange way to spend your free time after school? Not for the 1000+ youth involved in the Ruwwad-supported Scout Training courses, delivered in partnership with the Palestinian Development Forum (PDF) from February through April 2007. With funding from the USAID West Bank/Gaza Mission, Ruwwad has been working closely with PDF since the start of the year—providing training support, equipment, and strategic guidance to ensure that growing numbers of Palestinian youth can learn about community leadership through scouting.

Scouting isn't a new activity in the West Bank and Gaza: Since 1912, the Palestinian Scouting Association has been a pillar of local life. But not all communities have been able to benefit from a local scout club: Uniforms, equipment, and qualified scout trainers are beyond the reach of many low-income villages and neighborhoods. The result? At-risk boys and girls—who desperately need good leadership role-models—are left with nothing to do after school, and no chance to learn life-changing skills.

Enter the Ruwwad-supported PDF Scout Training campaign. Over a three-month period, the initiative will reach ten major youth clubs across the West Bank and Gaza—making a tangible difference in communities through two main activities: Ruwwad-designed training courses that prepare local youth club staff to become scout leaders, and the establishment of new scouting clubs—through the provision of Ruwwad-funded uniforms, equipment (like wilderness supplies) and resources for community outreach.

At the Ahli Youth Club in Qalqilya, Ruwwad-PDF outreach efforts have already paid off: A series of radio ads has drawn 85 aspiring scouts to the club for training. “I want to educate myself about different life skills,” explains Nadia, a hopeful new scout, during a break in a lesson on outdoor survival skills: fire-building and the use of compasses provided by PDF, through Ruwwad support. Added Ja'afar, age 13: “I want to help my people. Scouting gives you the skills to do that, because it makes you a better leader. I wouldn't [have had] the chance to learn these skills if there was no scouting program at Ahli Club”.

For the Qalqilya scouts—and all of the Scouts in the Ruwwad-supported PDF initiative—training culminates in a dynamic swearing-in ceremony, or *Tadsheen*. Here, scouts demonstrate their dedication to the leadership movement by taking an oath of loyalty and community service. At the Jericho Youth Club scout training site, director Imran A'mar already has a growing list of community projects that are begging for the new scouts' attention, post-*Tadsheen*. “We would like the scouts to help care for the elderly, by visiting them and teaching some of them how to read”. As part of Ruwwad's sustainability plan for the scouting campaign, Ruwwad staff have set aside resources to help turn these dreams into a reality—thanks to USAID funding support and on-the-ground help from PDF. Explains Ruwwad Chief of Party Hisham Jabi: “For almost a hundred years, scouts have been making a difference in Palestinian communities. Through our work with USAID and PDF, we aim to keep this proud tradition alive for the next generation of young leaders.”

For more information please contact Chuck Wattles, [cwattles@edc.org](mailto:cwattles@edc.org)



## **EQuALLS Phase 2 Program: Access to Education in the Philippines**

*Partnering to strengthen and increase access to quality education and livelihood skills in selected areas of the Philippines, particularly those most affected by conflict and poverty.*

### **Scholarships, summer jobs await graduates of EQuALLS' Alternative Learning System Program**

**EDC Philippines, March 30** – Out of school children and youth (OSCY) in Mindanao which graduated this month from the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program of EDC's Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS) Phase 2 Project are looking forward to summer jobs and scholarships in college.

In Zamboanga City, Mayor Celso Lobregat announced that the city government will offer a two-month-summer job to 200 qualified ALS graduates beginning April. Mayor Ramon Piang of North Upi, Maguindanao and Mayor Roderick Furigay of Lamitan, Basilan also announced that they will each provide scholarships to 20 ALS graduates who will pass the Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) test which EQuALLS learners took early this month.

ALS is a 10-month program offering basic education to out-of-school youth to reintegrate them back into the formal school system while providing livelihood skills training to prepare them for employment. This month, 6,000 OSCY from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and Regions 9 and 12 in Mindanao graduated from the ALS program.

ALS culminates with graduates taking the Philippine Education Placement Test to determine their year level in formal schooling and the A&E Test which is equivalent to an elementary or high school diploma.

EQuALLS Phase 2 is a five-year USAID-funded project that seeks to improve the quality of and access to elementary education and reintegrate OSCY into the formal education system or into productive economy through relevant life skills trainings. It is implemented in the conflict-affected areas of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and central and western Mindanao.



Something to cheer about. These Muslim youth which graduated last week from EQuALLS Alternative Learning Program have college scholarships and summer jobs waiting for them. They, too, have the option of going back to formal schooling or pursuing a livelihood venture of which the ALS program prepared them for. Photo by Janice Sevilla.

For more information, please contact Nancy Devine, [ndevine@edc.org](mailto:ndevine@edc.org).

## Haiti: Out-of-School Youth Livelihood Initiative / IDEJEN

*Providing education and livelihood preparation opportunities to out-of-school youth in Haiti, and research to inform the process.*

From February 26th to March 8th, Natasha Cassinath (EQUIP3 partner: Street Kids International) and Erin Barton (independent consultant) facilitated the Street Banking training for entrepreneurship instructors. Instructors from Port-au-Prince, Jeremie and Mirebalais were present for the training, as were youth involved in IDEJEN centers in Port-au-Prince.

Erin Barton stayed an extra week to conduct interviews for the EQUIP3 applied research project. Over the course of that week, she interviewed 38 youth in Port-au-Prince, Jeremie and Mirebalais to find out how the IDEJEN program has affected their educational and economic prospects. This study will continue over a period of 18 months to better inform the program and other stakeholders on the longer term impact of the project.

From March 27-29, IDEJEN and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Civic Action held a training on the orientation guide to the Key Elements for Youth Programming, developed by EQUIP3 partner, NYEC, for the IDEJEN project. Present at the training were 23 departmental representatives from the Ministry of Youth. The workshop was very well received by participants who welcomed such learning opportunity. The collaboration with the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Civic Action will continue with a focus on department level capacity building.

Field visits continued throughout the 7 departments IDEJEN currently operate in. IDEJEN staff is actively working on preparing the official opening of over 30 additional Youth Centers that will provide workforce readiness training and services, vocational training and livelihood accompaniment to a targeted 2200 youth over the coming 18 months.

For more information, please contact Melanie Beauvy, [mbeauvy@edc.org](mailto:mbeauvy@edc.org)

## Afghanistan Literacy and Community Empowerment

The LCEP program officially ended on December 31, 2006, after 30 months of implementation. Staff are currently writing up final reports. In addition, the data collection phase of the Afghanistan Applied Research Study also concluded in December. Data entry and analysis are currently underway.

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