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**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.

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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.

Catherine Kamping, our Youth Advisory Committee member from the Philippines, has recently started working as an instructor at an Alternative Learning Systems program. Some of her students were invited by the US Embassy to participate in their Youth Democracy Summer Fest, a program aimed at promoting human rights and democracy amongst young people aged 18-25. A brief report on their experience is available upon request.

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 June 30, 2006.

2. **Knowledge Dissemination**

**EQUIP3 Website**

Melanie Beauvy, Tracey Hatcher and Lisa Austin have been working together to update the EQUIP3 website. The new leader award page outlines more clearly the work that EQUIP3 has done related to youth assessments; learning and knowledge dissemination; livelihood preparation and workforce development; youth and conflict; youth participation; and training and events.

To see the updates to the Leader Award Activities page of the website, please visit [http://www.equip123.net/webarticles/anmviewer.asp?a=27&z=38](http://www.equip123.net/webarticles/anmviewer.asp?a=27&z=38). To view the updates to the Youth Assessments page, visit [http://www.equip123.net/webarticles/anmviewer.asp?a=430&z=33](http://www.equip123.net/webarticles/anmviewer.asp?a=430&z=33).
Core Award Activities, continued

3. Staff Security Committee
Over the past year security has been a topic of discussion and action among EQUIP3 project staff due to the heightened tension in some countries where we operate. While all the projects in the countries considered “at risk” where we operate (Afghanistan, West Bank/Gaza and Haiti) received training, EDC is now working with a security firm on developing systematic systems to allow EQUIP3 to operate more efficiently in current and future countries where security is an issue.

For more information, please contact Chuck Wattles, cwattles@edc.org

4. Youth and Conflict: Literature Review and Bibliography
Marc Sommers, the EQUIP 3/Youth Trust Youth Research Specialist, has just published Youth and Conflict: A Brief Review of Available Literature. Drawing on extensive archival and internet research, this short analytical literature review aims to illuminate key themes, trends, and promising prospects for war-affected youth and the programs that aim to assist them.

For more information, please contact Paul Sully, psully@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.

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. 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.
Jamaica: Addressing urban boys’ education and employment challenges
A visit to Jamaica was conducted by Alejandra Bonifaz and David-James Wilson from EQUIP3 in order to i) launch the EFA initiative with the country Mission and the implementing organization, People’s Action for Community Transformation (PACT); ii) conduct a site visit to the project site (Grants Pen) to better understand local youth, the community, and current development initiatives, and iii) strengthen partners’ relationship and engagement in the project. The project will provide young boys, in an inner city community with high levels of violence, with basic skills as well as employment skills to be applied in the music and aquatics sectors, while also responding to the demands in tourism, entertainment, and the hotel industry.

The implementing organization for this project, People’s Action for Community Transformation (PACT), is an umbrella organization, to which 14 local NGOs are affiliated. PACT has worked for 9 years with disadvantaged inner city communities that display low basic education indicators and high rates of violence. EQUIP3 and PACT will work collaboratively to serve the needs of young boys while complementing previous and existing efforts in Grants Pen.

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, were invited to give a presentation at Education Development Center (EDC) on June 6, 2006. Educators and academic members with various areas of expertise, such as education, health, and community participation, attended and contributed to this presentation, followed by small group discussions. Additional meetings were organized for TKL to establish a direct line of communication with the EFA South Africa project and to explore ways to bring together field work and academic research.

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 (CYSoA) will be held at USAID Washington on June 12, 2006. It is expected that this meeting will contribute to a better understanding of i) the challenges and outcomes of the adaptation of the US City Year model for a South African context; ii) a model for private sector involvement that reaches corporate engagement through activities on the ground; and iii) a well-developed learning component for participating youth.

Also in June, City Year will hold its Annual Meeting in New York City with participants from City Year South Africa (CYSoA) as well as all US-based sites. Later in the month, CYSoA will hold a large scale service day in Johannesburg, where the private sector will be actively engaged in on-the-ground activities. In addition, CYSoA is organizing a field trip for approximately 15 American families to visit South Africa and engage in service learning activities.

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

As indicated in last month’s newsletter 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, cwattles@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.

In April 2006, International Program Manager Melanie Beauvy did a monitoring visit in Haiti. She visited IDEJEN Youth Centers in Port-au-Prince and Jeremie with Field Project Coordinator Guerda Previlon and USAID CTO Grace Lang. The main purpose was to look at progress made by the participating out-of-school youth and to meet with Centers’ managers on progress, opportunities and constraints. It was also the occasion to inaugurate one of the first youth-led Community Cybercenters financed by the project in Jeremie. Melanie also proceeded with a monitoring and evaluation visit of the C3 project run in partnership with Fondation L’Avenir and outlined with C3 Project Director and USAID CTO the next steps to complete this pilot project. The visit concluded with a debriefing to USAID Education and Economic Growth sections.

The month of May was focused on evaluating the participating youth of the 9 pilot IDEJEN Youth Centers who completed their year of basic education and technical training. The IDEJEN team was in the field evaluating the youth, along with independent evaluation specialists, including evaluators from the Haitian Ministry of Education who will accredit the vocational training part of the youths’ achievements. The evaluated youth will graduate in June 2006. This graduation will be followed by a 6 month accompaniment mentorship to help the youth find a job or apprenticeship, start a small enterprise or pursue their studies.

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.

The USAID Mission in Afghanistan has granted LCEP a no-cost extension through October 2006. This extension will allow LCEP’s cohort I learners (approximately 3500), approximately half of whom are women, to complete a full cycle of instruction, thereby enabling them to receive a 3rd Grade Equivalency Certificate issued by the Government of Afghanistan, and will allow cohort II learners (approximately 6000) to nearly complete the program. LCEP has been honored by the Afghan Ministry of Education’s recent support for LCEP’s literacy training methodology, materials, assessment process and progress tracking system. Extension will allow LCEP to work with the MOE to adapt these systems for MOE use in adult literacy programs nation-wide.

Recent Highlights

• The LCEP website has been launched. Please visit http://lcep.edc.org/

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

Administrative Updates

Travel
• Paul Sully, Melanie Beauvy, Lisa Austin from EDC; Patricia Gill from NYEC; and Rachelle Martinez from OICI will travel to Haiti for the IDEJEN annual retreat, to be held June 15-17. The following week, Maureen Malley from EDC will travel to Haiti to work with the IDEJEN team to go over financial processes.

Planned Trainings and Events
• Teboho Mahuma, the Executive Director of City Year South Africa, will meet with USAID Washington on June 12.
• The next Youth Assessment one-day training is in the process of being planned, but no date has been set as of yet.
• An EQUIP Communications Workshop is set for EQUIPs Chiefs of Party in South Africa this July.