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Core Award Activities

**Youth Community of Practice (YCOP)**

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

The following YCoP link was released this period:

- Youth and Health #16

It can be accessed at:


**EQUIP3 Website**

Updates this period under Associate Awards Activities:

- Youth Have Opportunities for Work in Timor Leste (JOBS) Program page is now available. To view this page, please visit at

[http://www.equip123.net/webarticles/anmviewer.asp?a=590&z=37](http://www.equip123.net/webarticles/anmviewer.asp?a=590&z=37)
IDEJEN Prepares for Expansion

We are pleased to announce that the USAID Mission in Haiti has extended the Haitian Out-of-School Livelihood Initiative (IDEJEN) project until 2010. IDEJEN is a basic education and livelihood training project for out-of-school youth between the ages of 15 and 24. The extension would dramatically expand the number of out-of-school youth served from 2850 to 13,050 total and strengthen the Workforce Development Component with features to help these young people transition to the working world.

Main Activities 2007-2010:

Workforce development is a key element in the expansion. In addition to non formal basic education, life skills and vocational training, mentoring, career guidance and job placement services will support the youth as they either return to school or seek employment in the formal or informal economy. IDEJEN project personnel will conduct local labor market studies to better inform the vocational training component and help identify the economic sectors that are producing more job opportunities. IDEJEN will collaborate with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to develop Youth Career Centers that will help out-of-school youth find jobs, understand the labor market, and develop relevant entrepreneurship skills. These unique centers will also facilitate pathways to longer-term employment through establishing partnerships with key government, public, and private-sector actors.

During the expansion, IDEJEN will continue to build the capacity of youth-serving organizations by helping CBOs increase their sustainability through activities like business and marketing plans and diversification of their funding base.

IDEJEN will also continue to strengthen its relations with the Government of Haiti and various stakeholder organizations to make the project a sustainable, national-level program. Specifically, IDEJEN will work with the Ministry of Education and Professional Training to:

- develop a National Policy on Non-formal Basic Education;
- support the programming needs of IDEJEN youth; and
- facilitate certification of youth graduates in basic education.

In addition, IDEJEN will continue to work closely with the Ministry of Youth to create and implement a National Youth Policy. IDEJEN will also team up with the International Youth Foundation to help the Ministry develop a Youth Leadership Institute.
Study Tour to the Philippines, November 12-16, 2007

Why would three Haitians travel half way around the world to the Philippines? To learn about non formal education, of course! The Philippines has a large non formal education (NFE) system that provides an alternative means of learning and certification for out-of-school youth and adults who are unable to attend formal schools. Of particular interest is the accreditation and equivalency system, which allows NFE participants to earn an education qualification comparable to that of the formal school system.

Guerda Prévilon, IDEJEN Chief of Party; Pierre-Michel Laguerre, Director General of the Haitian Ministry of National Education and Professional Training (MENFP); and Rénold Telfort, Director of Basic Education for MENFP, spent five days learning about NFE programs and policies in the Philippines, and how the Philippine experience with NFE could benefit Haiti.

The participants traveled to Manila and Bacolod City, and met with Philippine NFE experts and officials from the Ministry of Education. They also visited several NGOs working in NFE to observe model programs, such as the Sandiwaan Center for Learning that provides poor, out-of-school youth and adults with NFE classes and livelihood training, firsthand.

The tour was ably organized and conducted by the South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO Innotech), an international group whose purpose is to promote cooperation in education, science and culture in Southeast Asia and around the world. Guerda Prévilon said that the study tour met and exceeded everyone’s expectations, and will certainly help the work of the Ministry of Education in setting up a strategy for NFE in Haiti.

Training-of-Trainers on Street Kids International’s Street Business Toolkit

In early December 2007 Street Kids International, an EQUIP3 partner, trained 10 Haitian educators and government experts on how to use its Street Business Toolkit to train out-of-school youth in small business management. The course includes entrepreneurship training designed specifically for at-risk children and youth with little or no formal education. It teaches them how to manage a small business, including understanding customer needs, budgeting, problem-solving and achieving goals. The Toolkit is very interactive through the use of games, videos, flip charts and lots of discussion. In addition to mastering the content, trainers are expected to learn facilitation skills in how to engage the youth who will set up and manage their own businesses.

For more information, please contact Melanie Beauvy, mbeauvy@edc.org.
Cotabato City, November 9 – Department of Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus and USAID Philippines Director Jon Lindborg completed a two-day visit to schools in Mindanao that are being supported by the Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS) project. EQuALLS is a USAID-funded education project implemented in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Region 9 and Region 12. USAID launched the EQuALLS project in 2004 in partnership with the Department of Education (DepED) and DepED ARMM to improve access to quality education and livelihood opportunities for children and out-of-school youth (OSY) in Mindanao.

 Upon arrival in Cotabato City, Messrs. Lapus and Lindborg visited Datu Pindililang Piang Elementary School in Datu Saudi, Maguindanao. They observed project efforts to improve the teaching of English, science, and math, which includes an audio-based English enrichment program for teachers of grades 5 and 6 and a beginning reading program for students in grades 1 and 2. The latter is being implemented in select schools through a partnership between EQuALLS and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). Australian Embassy representative Titon Mitra was likewise present in the rounds to project sites. During the visit to Datu Saudi, Messrs. Lapus and Lindborg also turned over books and learning materials to Libutan Elementary School, a pilot school of the beginning reading program.

 From Maguindanao, Messrs. Lapus and Lindborg proceeded to J. Marquez School of Peace in Cotabato City to engage students, teachers, and administrators in a discussion on strengthening peace in their community. The J. Marquez School of Peace is located in a settlement area of former Moro National Liberation Front guerillas. EQuALLS has provided the school with a 10-part video production series on peace entitled Salam.

 On the same day, Messrs. Lapus and Lindborg visited the OMI Training Center in Cotabato City where mayors and school principals from Barira, Datu Paglas, and Upi municipalities were undergoing an EQuALLS-sponsored training on participatory school management and community mobilization.

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A visit to two learning centers in Midsayap, North Cotabato gave the top officers of DepED and USAID the chance to interact with out-of-school youth enrolled in alternative basic education and livelihood skills programs under the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program of EQuALLS. The visitors witnessed actual livelihood training and industry immersion in a farm laboratory. The EQuALLS OSY support program is the largest in the country with a target of 100,000 OSY.

USAID has committed $81 million for education and youth development in Mindanao through the EQuALLS project between 2003 and 2011. In partnership with DepEd and DepED ARMM, EQuALLS has helped to improve the quality of education for approximately 480,000 students in public elementary schools in Mindanao, trained nearly 10,000 educators in the teaching of English, science and math, and provided almost two million books to schools in Mindanao.

By 2011, EQuALLS will have constructed or renovated 600 classrooms and more than 300 community learning centers, strengthened 700 local school boards through training programs, provided 100,000 out-of-school youth with livelihood skills, and trained 24,000 teachers in English, science, and math.

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