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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.

What’s New?

New Associate Award: Cross-Sectoral Youth Project. Look out for more information in next month’s newsletter.

Core Award Activities

1. Youth Participation
Fostering positive and meaningful youth participation in development programming.

New Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) Members
The following youth have been selected to work with EQUIP3 as Youth Advisory Committee members for the next two years:
• Catherine Kamping, Philippines (returning)
• Adona El-Murr, Lebanon
• Samuel Mabikke, Uganda
• Carrie Ndoka, Kenya

EQUIP3 is still accepting applications from Associate Award countries. If you or anyone in your network knows of a young leader in Haiti, Jamaica, South Africa or Afghanistan, please contact us and we will forward you the nomination form.

We extend a big “thank you” to Maryanne Yerkes (USAID), Emma Saavedra Serrano (former YAC member, Bolivia), David James-Wilson (EQUIP3), Chuck Wattles (EQUIP3) and Paul Sully (EQUIP3), all of whom served on the YAC selection committee.

2. Knowledge Dissemination

EQUIP3 Website
A description of the EQuALLS Phase 2 project in the Philippines is now on the EQUIP3 website. In addition, we have updated the Youth Participation page with more text and new resources. To view the updates, please visit:

EQuALLS Phase 2:
http://www.equip123.net/webarticles/anmviewer.asp?a=493&z=36

Youth Participation:
http://www.equip123.net/webarticles/anmviewer.asp?a=469&z=38
Associate Award Activities

Education for All / Youth Challenge Grant Program

*Generating knowledge by supporting cross-sectoral partnerships that apply innovative non-formal educational approaches to addressing basic education.*

**Jamaica**

*Addressing urban boys’ education and employment challenges.*

People’s Action for Community Transformation (PACT) continued to move forward with program implementation and began its second quarter building new partnerships and gaining greater local support in Grants Pen. In September, PACT reached out to the local TV station, which responded positively expressing interest in documenting youth participation in the project. Conversations around this opportunity will continue during the coming month. Similarly, a new partnership began to develop with the National Commercial Bank (NCB), who agreed to contribute t-shirts inscribed with “Youth for Change” for youth engaged in community volunteer programs in Gants Pen. In the next stages of the project, PACT will continue to strengthen and deepen these partnerships with the local media and private sector, thereby increasing local credibility in Grants Pen and external recognition from the broader community.

**South Africa**

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

September marked the end of the implementation of the EFA South Africa project. During a 12-month period, City Year engaged disadvantaged youth in full-time service, promoted civic participation, and provided youth with opportunities to develop life and coping skills and practical technical proficiencies. Throughout this period, City Year continued to adapt the City Year model in the United States for a South African context while identifying opportunities and overcoming challenges in the process. While September was dedicated to concluding activities planned under the EFA grant, City Year and EQUIP3 have started to look back at progress made and reflect on the adaptation process in particular. It is expected that during the next couple of months of the project close-out, this reflection will generate concrete lessons learned not only for the other two EFA Youth Challenge Grant Programs in Jamaica and Uganda, but for the greater youth development community.

**Uganda**

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

The Kids League (TKL) continued to be implemented under the EFA Grant Program in Kumi and Lira. The last TKL Sports League ran from June through August. Thus, the month of September was dedicated to conducting the necessary evaluation and follow up of the previous sports league and preparing for the next one, which is scheduled to run from October through December. This process included conducting community outreach in Kumi and Lira, providing capacity-building workshops for staff, building new partnerships, and strengthening existing ones.

For more information, please contact: Alejandra Bonifaz, abonifaz@edc.org

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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.

Round table on Opportunities and Challenges around Youth and Youth Programming

On September 28th, Ruwwad held a round table to explore the needs, challenges, gaps and opportunities around youth and youth programming. Over 20 attendees included Peter Wiebler/USAID, Mary Glantz/American Consulate; representatives of international and local YSOs, CBOs, NGOs; youth activists; and Palestinian youth. The discussion focused on identifying needs of Palestinian youth, the role of the YSOs to address these needs, and the youth’s vision for a national policy and establishment of a wider sphere for youth participation in future planning.

Participants identified the need for:
• democracy and civil society activities as a priority
• a clear definition of the meaning of humanitarian assistance
• unified decision-making strategies among YSOs
• greater emphasis on youth training and opportunities, in general, and vocational training, in particular
• a larger youth role in political bodies and political decision-making
• a national plan/aspiration addressing youth’s needs
• a clear division between the needs of the youth and those of the YSOs
• sustainable youth programs, where youth are not ‘used’ as tokens
• an enhanced sense of belonging among youth
• greater access of marginalized communities
• a greater sense of identity and tolerance on the national level

To respond to these challenges, participants proposed carrying out a comprehensive needs assessment, building a network of YSOs to enhance cooperation, and improving the alignment of YSO and youth needs. In addition, round table participants worked to identify targeted ways in which youth can contribute to meeting their needs within West Bank/Gaza.

For more information on this round table, please contact Chuck Wattles, cwattles@edc.org
Afghanistan Literacy and Community Empowerment

Promoting literacy, governance, economic empowerment, and the full participation of women in rural Afghan communities.

In October, LCEP field and senior staff will undertake an intensive PLA (Participatory Learning and Action) Activity in a sample of 12 communities to determine what aspects of LCEP were most effective and in which ways communities can sustain the activities or the benefits of the program after LCEP formally concludes in February.

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

The IDEJEN Youth Participation Statement is now available on the EQUIP3 website. This document illustrates how youth have been involved in the project from the first steps, making valuable contributions to the planning and development of the program. Please visit: http://www.equip123.net/docs/e3-Youth%20participation-09-06.pdf

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

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Administrative Updates

Staff Changes

Lindsay Lincoln, a recent graduate of Georgetown University’s Master of Science Foreign Service program, has joined us as a research associate intern in the DC office. Lindsay has been engaged in youth development and health programming locally with the American Red Cross, Corporation for National and Community Service, and World Bank, and in Zimbabwe, with the International Organization for Migration.