

Illustrative Program Description¹ for a Youth Assessment in Rwanda

I. SUMMARY

Subject:	Youth Assessment
Target Group:	USAID Mission personnel, key stakeholders in the government and non government youth serving sectors, young men and women , their families and community supporters
Period of Performance:	Six weeks
Target Area:	Rwanda, with specific geographic areas TBD
Summary:	In close consultation with USAID/Rwanda, youth assessment team members will: review and collect data regarding the current situation of Rwanda's youth as this relates to mission strategic objectives and cross-cutting themes; articulate youth's role within Rwanda's overall social, political and economic context; and put forward concrete and targeted youth programming options for mission consideration.

II. DETAIL

A. Background:

Through its current Integrated Strategic Plan, USAID/Rwanda is addressing three key Strategic Objectives:

- SO5 – Improved Governance through Increased Citizen Participation
- SO6 – Increased Use of Community Health Services, including HIV/AIDS
- SO7 – Expanded Economic Opportunities in Rural Areas

The Mission is also committed to addressing a number of cross-cutting themes such as gender equity, environmental stewardship, the rural-urban dynamic, information and communication technology, and human and institutional capacity development. It recognizes the importance of civil society organizations in promoting development and embraces a constructive partnership between these organizations and the private sector.

The Mission is interested in exploring its current strategic objectives and cross-cutting themes through a youth lens. In particular, the mission would like to explore the connection of youth and health, and the ways in which governance and economic growth activities might address youth – health linkages. Also, the mission is interested in deepening its understanding of how local municipalities could best engage youth to improve the provision of public services. Finally, there is interest in exploring ways in which the private sector can be engaged.

¹ In order to be as concrete as possible, this illustrative program description targets the country of Rwanda. This however doesn't answer a specific request from USAID.

B. Framing Questions:

Mission interest might best be summarized by the following five framing questions:

1. What is the current situation of Rwanda's youth with regard to:
 - their participation in local governance;
 - their health status and behaviors in general and their current relationship with community health services in particular;
 - HIV/AIDS; and
 - livelihood generation opportunities, especially in rural areas?
2. In what ways, and to what extent, does the 'youth factor' impact the national context in each of these domains?
3. In those domains where the youth factor is significant, what are recommended (concrete, integrated, innovative yet well-founded) programming approaches that the mission might pursue?
4. How might a particular emphasis on the connection of youth and health, gender equity, environmental stewardship, rural-urban dynamics, information technology, and human and institutional capacity development (especially for civil society organizations and local government) be incorporated within these programming approaches?
5. What are some concrete recommendations for addressing the above by utilizing the Global Development Alliance mechanism?

A targeted **youth assessment** is proposed to answer these questions. The following several pages outline an approach.

C. Activity Description:

C.1 Purpose: Provide USAID/Rwanda with sound data for decision making regarding youth programming in targeted domains by responding to the framing questions outlined above.

C.2 Proposed Activities: The youth assessment may best be understood as a series of steps and related sub-activities. Each step is detailed below.

Step One: Engage key SO team leaders and key Mission personnel in the development of a Youth Assessment SOW.

1. Engage in initial consultations with local Mission and review existing documentation regarding country plans and existing SO's. Add to this, a review of related projects that are underway, recently completed, or coming on stream in the near future.
2. Assist Mission in clarifying objectives, surfacing existing internal knowledge / key assumptions, identifying key research questions and research methodologies, building links across SO's, and highlighting potential sources of funding for ongoing work.
3. Jointly develop a detailed SOW for the proposed assessment. The SOW will:

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- ensure linkages to overall country strategies;
 - focus on existing or emerging SO level priorities;
 - identify areas for cross sectoral collaborations / coordination;
 - reflect existing or emerging funding levels/ funding streams (PEPFAR, GDA);
 - reflect the principles and practices of effective youth work;
 - respond to Mission timelines and priorities.
4. Recruit youth assessment team (2-4 members) composed of international and local specialists and local youth members where appropriate. The assessment team will include:
- Team Leader: responsible for team management, research management, development of final report.
 - Youth Development Specialist: assures appropriate youth engagement and research practices.
 - Technical Specialists in Health, Governance and/or Livelihood for Rwanda: assure appropriate knowledge base and research practices in relevant domains.

Step Two: Appraise existing knowledge regarding each framing question and identify areas for on the ground follow-up.

1. Review existing knowledge germane to the youth assessment (such as reports, data bases, statistical analyses, and interviews with key Mission advisors), drawing on both country specific and thematically related sources.
2. Identify individuals and organizations for interview and consultation (with a focus on specialists in government, academia, the NGO sector and other donor organizations).
3. Develop qualitative and quantitative research tools and protocols, sampling strategies, and data tracking and analysis tools.

Step Three: a) Address critical gaps in knowledge via in country qualitative and quantitative data collection activities; b) segment the market of potential youth beneficiaries and actors (in terms of both needs and strengths/assets); c) identify both promising program models ready to go to scale, and priority areas in need of innovation, reform or pilot program development.

1. Orient assessment team members in data gathering and analysis methods (with an emphasis on developing advanced skills in field research with youth populations).
2. Apply qualitative and quantitative instruments (via Focus Groups Discussions, the use of PRA tools, individual interviews, expert panels, site visits and written questionnaires).
3. Collect, refine and analyze data.

Step Four: Develop and test with key stakeholders illustrative “scenarios” emerging from appraisal and field research activities that can inform the articulation of USAID Mission level strategies and/or the design of potential programming elements.

1. Translate findings into a series of illustrative “scenarios” that provide a practical framework for a further round of targeted interviews and focus group sessions with key stakeholders.

2. Incorporate feedback from the “scenario testing” sessions into the final knowledge capture and key recommendations of the assessment activity.

Step Five: Provide Mission personnel with the essential knowledge and recommendations to inform their articulation of overall strategies and (where appropriate) design a menu of possible program interventions.

1. Engage in an in country de-brief with Mission, including a presentation of preliminary findings and a review of scenario testing activities.
2. Prepare a final youth assessment report that draws on the integrated findings of the full assessment team.

D. Expected Results:

1. One or more face-to-face debriefing sessions among the youth assessment team and key local stakeholders during which the outcomes relating to each framing question are presented and discussed.
2. An assessment report containing the following sections:
 - executive summary
 - description of the research methodology
 - detailed description of findings that correspond directly to the framing questions described above and/or those in the finalized SOW
 - list and description of potential partners
 - list of those interviewed
 - bibliography

E. Possible Adaptations:

After an initial consultation with the Rwanda Mission, the assessment team will be able to increase or decrease the length and depth of the youth assessment to accommodate mission timeline, interest, and funding.

F. Timing:

TBD

G. Required and preferred qualifications:

A small team that represents expertise in at least two sectoral areas:

- 12 years of professional work that includes assessment and design work in cross-sectoral youth development programming (health, employment/livelihoods, civic engagement, non-formal education, gender), and training with at least four of them in international development
- Experience in private and public partnerships
- French proficiency (will work with local consultant) highly desired
- Strong English writing skills
- Familiarity with USAID program design requirements

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- Africa experience highly desirable, as well as experience in youth programs in post-conflict situations