



SDC YOUTH POLICY



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Swiss Agency for Development
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Introduction

5 Why an SDC Youth Policy?

- 6 Population growth and poverty
- 7 Youth and development – Challenges and opportunities
- 9 Millennium Development Goals
- 9 An effective investment
- 11 SDC's commitment

13 SDC's goals

- 15 Developing potential
- 15 Improving chances in life
- 15 Encouraging a political role

17 Implementation, responsibilities and monitoring

- 18 Youth perspectives
- 18 Youth partnerships
- 18 Targeted activities
- 19 Commitment at the international level
- 19 Skills within SDC and partner organisations
- 19 Working with partners in Switzerland

21 Appendix

- 22 International commitments with relevance to youth
- 23 Sources
- 25 Endnotes
- 26 Acronyms

Introduction

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is part of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). It works with other agencies within the Federal Administration as well as with civil society organisations and the private sector to coordinate Swiss international cooperation efforts. SDC is Switzerland's "public face" for all matters relating to international development, local development and transformation processes as well as humanitarian aid.

Support from young people is essential if the agreed upon Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved by 2015. The present Youth Policy explains why SDC is placing greater emphasis on youth involvement in its programmes and what it seeks to accomplish. The Policy also shows how SDC gives greater importance to young people in all of its activities and provides increased support to young people at the operational level. This Youth Policy is intended for SDC staff and partner organisations.

"If we are to stand any chance whatsoever of achieving the development goals and building a better world for all, we must reach out to young people. And we must do so urgently and with open arms. We must embrace them as partners in progress."

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director
of the United Nation's Population Fund



Why an SDC Youth Policy?

"If the world is changing, we must be ready to change with it."

Youth delegate, SDC
Youth-Roundtable 2006





Population growth and poverty

Today's generation of youth¹ – the generation in transition from child- to adulthood – is the largest in human history. Young men and women between the ages of 15 and 24 (see Box 1) account for roughly one-fifth of the world's population, or 1.2 billion people. Today, almost 86% of these young people live in developing countries, over half of them living on less than two US-dollars a day. By 2035, 1 billion youth of the 1.3 billion worldwide will be living in developing countries (Chart 1).

According to UN estimates, the world population will grow from 6.5 billion to around 9.2 billion by 2050: In poor countries, populations

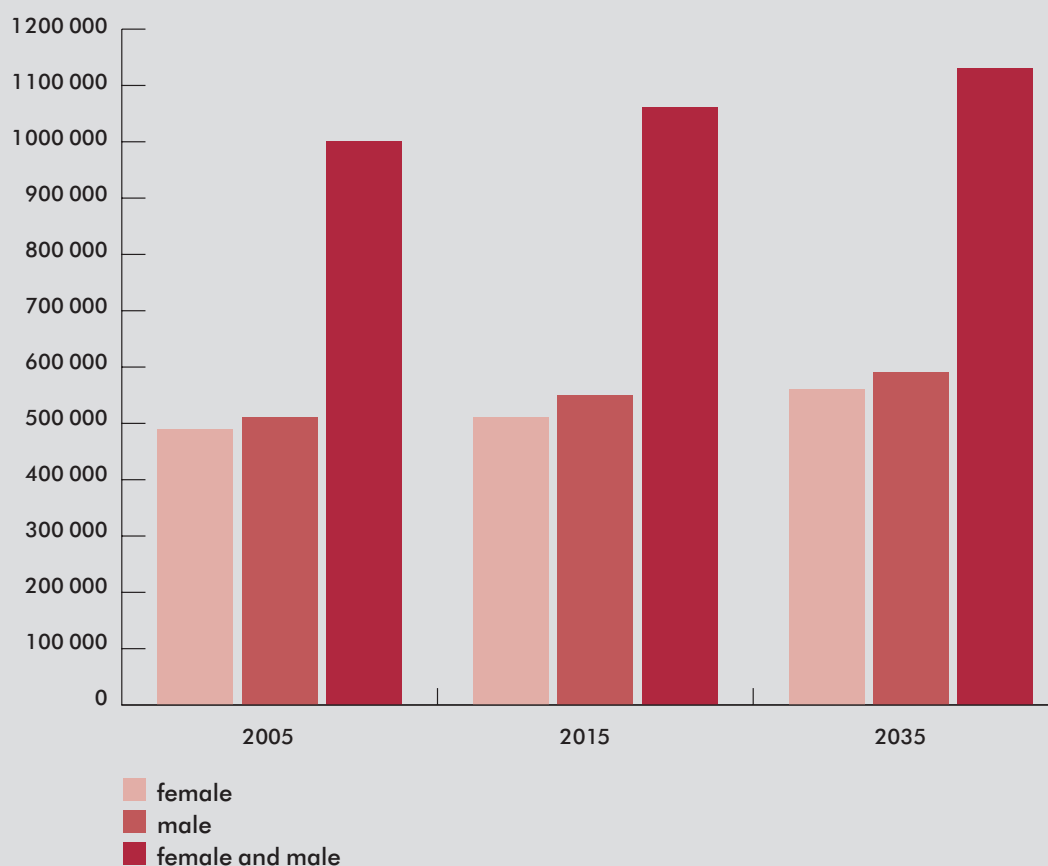
will swell from the current 5.3 billion to 7.9 billion. In certain developing regions, the share of old people in the population is expected to increase sharply as well: Half of the anticipated population growth between now and 2050 will flow from an increasing proportion of people aged 60 and over². In several developing countries and a few CIS states³, however, the population is expected to grow even younger in the future.⁴ Africa in particular will have a majority of young people for much of the 21st century.

This situation constitutes both an opportunity for development processes in the South and East and a major challenge for development cooperation.

Chart 1 – Population growth in less developed regions⁵

Youth population prospects by sex, less developed regions

in thousands



Population Division of the UN Department of Economic Affairs, World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision Population Database

Youth and development – Challenges and opportunities

Depending on their sex, origin and social status, young people face different problems: In many developing countries, poor youths have no access to important information, training options or functioning health services – not to mention limited opportunities for employment. Young men and particularly young women can barely acquire the knowledge and skills needed for making their own living. At the same time, they lack the opportunities to assume their rights and obligations and prepare for their political role. In transition countries, young people find themselves under increasing economic and social pressure. They are easily left on society's margins. In countries going through conflict, natural disasters or in post-conflict settings, young men and women have to contend with even more serious challenges.

As a result, young people represent a disproportionately large number of the poor (see Box 2). Moreover, poverty and insecurity hit them at a critical stage in their personal development. To make matters worse, they are most likely to transmit the negative effects of their situation onto the next generation.

Young people are anything but a passive segment of society. In fact, they are quite the opposite: they can cause or accelerate political and societal change and work to overcome development hurdles. Many young people all over the world are contributing to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). They are also effective promoters of peace and non-violence, play a constructive role in resolving political and other types of conflict. They are effective in mobilising their peers for post-conflict resolution. Young people represent a chance for peace and human security. They have the potential to overcome challenges such as poverty, the spread of HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence. However, this chance must be seized now.



Box 1 – Defining Youth

SDC has adopted the United Nations definition of “youth” as individuals between the ages of 15 and 24.

A “European” understanding of “youth” is often imposed on societies in the developing world: “Youth” refers to the period in life between childhood and adulthood, the transition from dependence on one’s parents towards greater independence. For many young people, this transition is fraught with identity crises and conflicts. This is the period in life when young people discover their own opportunities and limitations, establish their own values and shape their personal and sexual identity. It is also at this stage when they acquire the necessary knowledge and skills for their work-role and prepare for their life as adults.

Age categories and understanding of what constitutes “youth” vary according to world region and social context. In addition, young people are anything but a homogeneous group.



In order to develop their personal potential and to make a contribution to their communities, and in order to avoid a further deterioration of the situation for coming generations, societies in developing and transition countries need to respect and ensure the rights of youth. This requires development cooperation policies, programmes and approaches that take the concerns and needs of youth into account while lending economical, social and political support to young people, both men and women equally.

Box 2 – Key figures

- **Poverty:** Over 200 million young people, or 18% of all young people, live on less than one USD per day. 515 million young people live on less than two USD per day.*⁶
- **HIV/AIDS:** An estimated 12 million, or over one quarter of all people living with HIV, are between the ages of 15 and 24. Two-thirds of these people live in Sub-Saharan Africa. In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, more than 80% of those living with HIV are under the age of 30⁷. In some countries, HIV infection rates for adolescent girls are five (or more) times higher than for boys.⁸
- **Employment:** Standing at a total of 88 million, youth unemployment is highest in Western Asia, North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.*
- **Education:** 130 million young people are illiterate. 65 million girls and young women worldwide are excluded from primary education.*
- **Early marriage and pregnancy:** In developing countries, 82 million girls who are now between the ages of 10 and 17 will be married before their 18th birthday. An estimated 17% of births in the least developed countries are among women below the age of 20. Complications in pregnancy and childbirth are among the leading causes of death for young women between the ages of 15 and 19.*
- **Sexism and violence:** In some countries, an estimated 20% to 48% of young women between the ages of 10 and 25 have experienced forced sex. Over 100 million girls and women have been reported „missing“ in the wake of sex-selective abortions, especially in Asia. The large proportion of men or the lack of women in the population encourages trafficking in women, tensions between young men and increased migration of young people.⁹
- **Young people and conflicts:** In many cases, young people are particularly affected by conflicts. Young people between the ages of 12 and 24 account for 35% of the refugee population worldwide.¹⁰

Positive prospects in life, opportunities for personal development and sustainable values are pivotal to success. Under such conditions, young people will be able to develop into physically, emotionally and mentally healthy individuals who can make important contributions to the social and economic development of their local communities and country. They will acquire the knowledge and skills needed to assume their future role as citizens. Moreover, the values, behaviour patterns and capabilities that young people gain as they mature, learn and work can be passed down to their children, which gives them a head start in their personal development.

Millennium Development Goals

The internationally agreed strategic framework for development cooperation can be found in the UN Millennium Declaration and the eight measurable MDG¹¹, which are to be achieved by 2015. Each MDG has one or more targets that come with corresponding social, economic and environmental indicators to measure progress. As things currently stand, the efforts made by the international community will not suffice to reach the set goals by 2015 in all regions of the world. In order to make the required progress, greater attention needs to be paid to the rights and needs of young people (see Box 3).

An effective investment

Debates on globalisation, human security and sustainable development often neglect to address the specific rights and needs of young people. Not enough attention is devoted to the important role that young people play in spurring societal development.

While international development cooperation has ample experience and a strong track record in addressing the special rights and needs of children, young people have thus far been considered as an implicit target group or have been placed in other age categories (e.g. the children or adult age group). This is not enough. Investments in children and investments in youth have direct reciprocal effects. Youth-development-programmes are most effective where they can build on programmes for child-development. Seen from the opposite direction, the effectiveness of children's programmes can be undermined when there is no follow-up attention given to young people. Moreover, such a lack often increases the need for action in further stages of the lifecycle. This is why it is important that disadvantaged groups of young people in developing and transition countries receive targeted support. Governments, development agencies and local partner organisations therefore need to devise multi-sectoral strategies that will enable young people to face current and future challenges.



Box 3 – Five MDGs can be achieved directly through spending on youth programmes¹²

MDG	Targets	Indicators for monitoring progress (selection)
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education.	3. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.	8. Literacy rate of 15–24 year-olds.
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.	4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.	9. Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education. 10. Ratio of literate women to men, 15–24 years old.
Goal 5: Improve maternal health.	6. Reduce the maternal mortality ratio by two-thirds (based on 1990 levels) by 2015.	16. Maternal mortality ratio.
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.	7. Halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015.	18. HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged 15–24 years. 19b. Percentage of population aged 15–24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS.
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development.	16. In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth.	45. Unemployment rate of young people aged 15–24 years, each sex and total.

SDC's commitment

Already in the past, SDC has focused on youth concerns, e.g. in the areas of education and health. With the present Policy, SDC commits itself to increase its investments in targeted support of young people in developing and transition countries. SDC is particularly committed to improving the situation of young people with limited prospects in life, those who are infected by HIV, involved in violent conflicts, disabled or growing up without parental care. The Youth Policy is intended to serve as a frame of reference when working with partner organisations and lead to broader opportunities for young people.

This Policy also reflects SDC's commitment to achieve the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals. It bases itself on human rights and children's rights (see Appendix 1).

Young people are more than mere beneficiaries of aid. They are actors in their own right and essential partners in development. Programmes should reflect their concerns, challenges and potential. Their means of socialisation should be taken into account along with the expectations that families and societies place on young people.



SDC's goals

"The voice of youth is important, but it is not heard enough. Listening to youth and understanding it need to be learned."

Youth delegate, SDC
Youth-Roundtable 2006



In 2006, the Federal Council outlined the three points of thrust for Swiss development policy. Switzerland should suitably contribute to (i) achieving the MDGs, (ii) improving human security and ensuring stability; and (iii) enhance a pro-development globalisation.

The solution to development challenges requires young people in developing and transition countries to become more involved. They can be part of the solution if they are given better prospects in life, are able to voice their concerns and are actively participating in development cooperation efforts.

SDC's Youth Policy has established three goals:

Expanding opportunities for youth to develop their potential.

Service providers and duty bearers

It is up to developing and transition countries to provide young men and women with a broad range of opportunities (e.g. health, education, employment) so that they can develop their potential. This also includes 'second chance' opportunities for young people who were unable to take advantage of formal education. SDC programmes seek to expand opportunities in several ways: providing training to national authorities, private businesses and local communities to build skills and capacities; setting up national and local accountability mechanisms for public budgets; developing and implementing youth-friendly policies; establishing youth-specific social services; and fostering youth-empowering information and communication technologies. SDC is committed to providing equal opportunities for young men and women.

Empowering youth to improve their chances in life.

Young people as partners and rights holders

Young people should develop the skills and capabilities needed to claim their rights and take advantage of opportunities. This enables them to improve their prospects in life as well as their chances on the labour market and gives them greater access to social services and technologies. It allows them to handle abuse of power in their relationships with parents, older generations or authorities. Empowering youth leads to improvements that benefit their families, local communities and society as a whole. Focusing on young people as rights holders leads to greater empowerment. SDC supports policies, programmes and projects that enhance young people's chances in life. This, in turn, can also relieve the pressure of migration.

Encouraging youth to play their political role.

Young people as responsible citizens

Sustainable development depends heavily on the participation of citizens in political processes. Suitable efforts are needed to get young people more involved making decisions that affect them. Young people need to learn about their rights and obligations as members of the community and future citizens. SDC encourages a stronger commitment on the part of young people in their local communities by supporting project and programmes that increase their involvement in the design of activities to be carried out. SDC also promotes democratisation processes and social development.





Implementation, responsibilities and monitoring

"On an average, I invest half a day per week for one year on our project in Serbia."

Youth delegate, SDC
Youth-Roundtable 2006





In order to reach these three goals, SDC has devised six strategies at the political, operational and institutional levels. The strategies to be used are the ones that are best suited to the needs of young people within their specific context.

SDC recognises the Convention on the Rights of the Child and applies the principles set out in the Convention on Human Rights to its development cooperation policies and programmes¹³. It empowers poor and excluded population groups to stand up for their rights and provides assistance to institutions and organisations, enabling them to better discern their needs and respond to demands in an appropriate manner. In addition, SDC integrates gender¹⁴ and governance¹⁵ principles in its activities.

Mainstreaming youth perspectives

SDC includes youth perspectives in its policies, strategies and – based on an assessment of the geographical and social context – in country programmes. In situations of conflict, crisis or disaster, the specific needs of young people are also taken into account in humanitarian aid programmes. Youth issues must be mainstreamed in SDC priority themes¹⁶ with a direct impact on the lives of young people, namely education, employment and income generation, health (particularly sexual and reproductive health), HIV/AIDS, conflict prevention and transformation; and the two cross-cutting themes of gender and governance.

Operational units at SDC Headquarters and Swiss Cooperation Offices are responsible for integrating youth perspectives into country programmes.

Youth partnerships and voice

SDC works with youth associations, networks and organisations that promote youth concerns. Cooperation takes place in priority countries and aims at increased involvement of marginalised groups. In particular, SDC supports young people's political participation, e.g. in the preparation and implementation of national poverty reduction strategies by means of local youth councils and support to youth meetings.

Swiss Cooperation Offices are responsible for taking youth perspectives and concerns into account in their country-level strategies, programmes and projects and fostering youth involvement in political processes at the national level.

Targeted activities

SDC collaborates with partner organisations, civil society organisations, the private sector, local communities and young people themselves. It carries out activities and initiatives aimed at preventing marginalisation of young people. Risks to which young people are exposed (e.g. youth unemployment and social exclusion) ought to be explicitly addressed. Special attention is paid to disadvantaged youths who find themselves in situations of conflict or natural disaster. SDC emphasises the importance of so-called "life skills" for enhancing positive behaviour on the part of young people, particularly in relation to sexual and reproductive health, environmental concerns, violence and unemployment. SDC also supports programmes run by youth organisations to enable poor and marginalised young people to participate actively in development processes. Sports, culture, ICT and the media are further instruments for empowering and mobilising youth for development concerns.

Swiss Cooperation Offices are responsible for lending support to youth-specific activities. They engage in advocacy efforts to promote youth concerns, youth rights and national youth policies.

Commitment at the international level

SDC supports the normative and operational work of international youth organisations and youth-focused networks. It also shares its experience with international partner organisations, networks and multilateral processes. SDC launches increased reflection on challenges and development cooperation tasks in the area of "Youth and Development". In particular, SDC supports the ongoing efforts of UNFPA and UNICEF. Both organisations place great importance on safeguarding young people's rights and facilitating their successful transition to adulthood. SDC coordinates its activities with other donors, reinforcing the youth-focus and synergies within bilateral and multilateral development cooperation. Essential instruments include youth-oriented research activities and evaluations of partner governments and/or donor policies and programmes for their effectiveness.

Responsibility for implementing the Youth Policy at the international level lies with SDC's Development Policy and Multilateral Cooperation Department, the Humanitarian Aid Department as well as the Thematic and Technical Resources Department. Responsible for youth-focused multilateral and bilateral projects/programmes are the Bilateral Cooperation Department and the Cooperation with Eastern Europe and the CIS Department together with the Swiss Cooperation Offices. SDC's Knowledge and Research Thematic Service is responsible for commissioning and/or supporting relevant research and studies.

Strengthening skills within SDC and partner organisations

SDC is committed to ensuring that SDC staff as well as Swiss and local partner organisations have the technical, social and methodological skills needed to implement the Youth Policy.

Responsibility for youth-specific internal and external courses, on-the-job training, publications, etc. lies with the SDC Desk for Youth & Development.

Working with partners in Switzerland

SDC involves Swiss youth-focused and youth-led organisations in debates on the orientation of Swiss and international development policy as well as in development cooperation and humanitarian aid activities. SDC uses Internet-based platforms to facilitate exchange and dialogue between youth networks and organisations in Switzerland and their peers in developing and transition countries. SDC also works closely with other federal authorities to ensure coherence and focus in its efforts towards youth.

Responsibility for cooperation with Swiss youth organisations and networks lies with SDC's Desk for Youth & Development and its NGO Division. The desk collaborates with the Media and Communications Division to design special initiatives and events reaching out to young people in Switzerland.

Implementation, responsibilities and monitoring

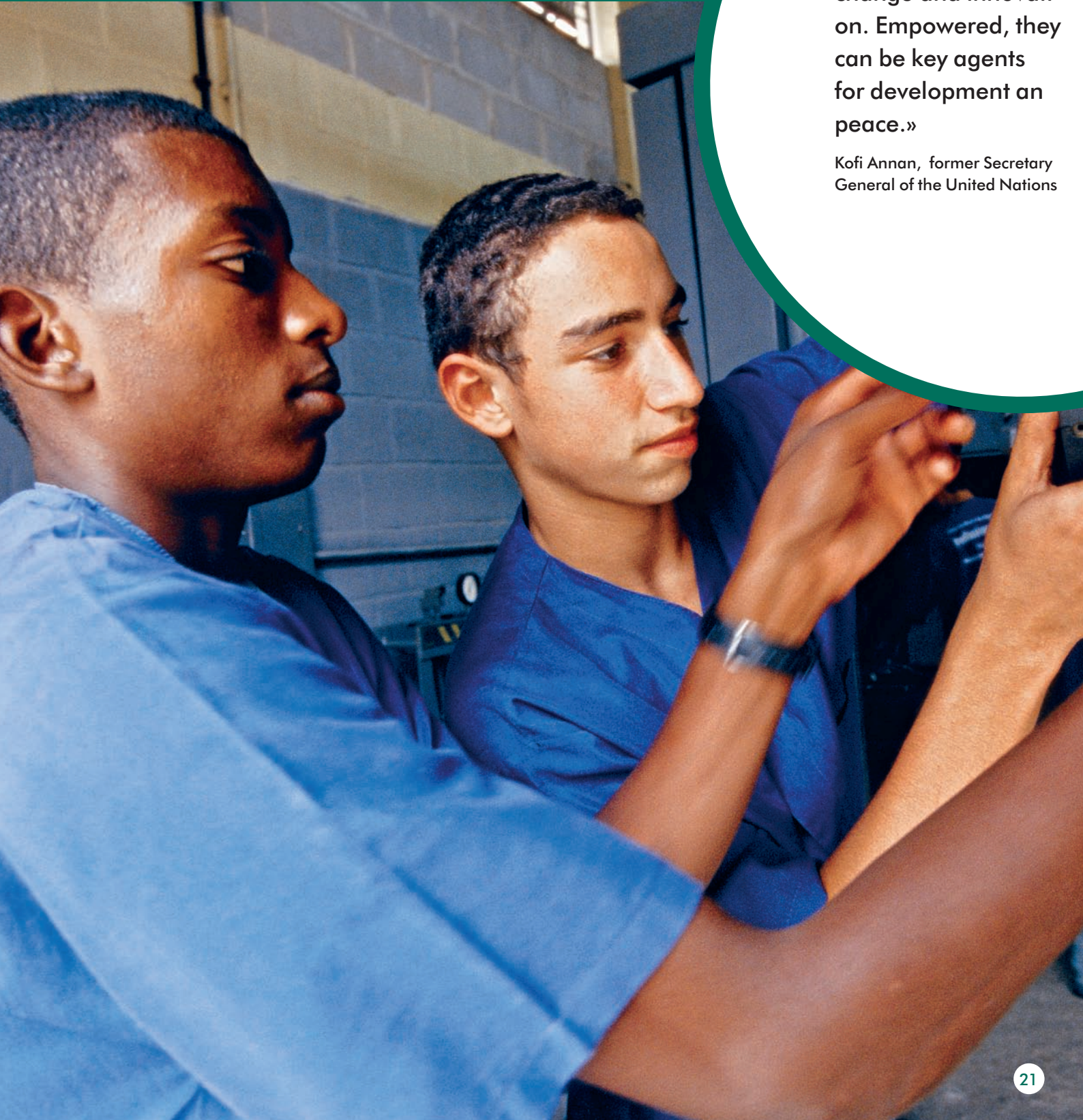
The management of SDC has the overall responsibility for implementing and monitoring the present Youth Policy. The Desk for Youth & Development provides advice to SDC management and staff on matters relating to the implementation process. Programming guides for thematic priority areas of SDC with relevance to youth further the implementation of this Policy.



Appendix

«Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace.»

Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations



International commitments with relevance to youth

Among other things, SDC's Youth Policy furthers Swiss obligations to make a commensurate contribution towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals (Box 4). The Youth Policy is based on the UN's Human Rights System (Box 5).

Box 4 – Selection of youth-related international obligations

- **1994** UNFPA International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo: Programme of Action
- **1995** 4th UN World Conference on Women in Beijing, Outcome document "Beijing Platform for Action"
- **1996** UN World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY)
- **2000** UNESCO World Education Forum in Dakar: Outcome document "Dakar Framework for Action"
- **2001** 26th UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS: Declaration of Commitment
- **2002** 27th UN General Assembly Special Session on Children: Outcome document "A World Fit for Children"
- **2003** World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Geneva: Declaration of Principles and Action Plan
- **2005** 2nd Magglingen Conference on Sport and Development: Outcome document "Magglingen Call to Action"
- **2007** 51st Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW): Conclusions regarding the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child

Sources

In recent years, partner governments and other development actors have begun to place greater emphasis on youth in development policy and cooperation. In particular, the World Bank, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) have taken leading roles in promoting a stronger youth focus.

SDC's Youth Policy draws on the following reference publications:

- World Development Report 2007, Development and the Next Generation written by the World Bank.
- World Youth Report 2005, Young People Today, and in 2015, written by the UN Secretariat's Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).
- Youth and the Millennium Development Goals, Challenges and Opportunities for Implementation, April 2005, written by the UN's Ad Hoc Working Group for Youth and the MDGs.

Other sources

UN

- Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, A/62/61-E/2007/7, 9 November 2006.
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World Bank

- World Development Report 2007, Development and the Next Generation.
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African Union

- African Union Commission, African Youth Charter, 2006.
- NEPAD/UNICEF, The Young Face of NEPAD: Children and Young People in the New Partnership for Africa's Development, 2004.

Bilateral agencies

- CIDA/International Institute for Child Rights and Development, Children as Partners: Child Participation Promoting Social Change, 2004.
- GTZ/International Council on National Youth Policy (ICNYP), Comparative Analysis of National Youth Policies, 2005.
- NORAD, Three billion reasons: Norway's development strategy for children and young people in the south, 2005.

Switzerland

- cinfo, Internationale Zusammenarbeit – Möglichkeiten und Alternativen für Jugendliche (International Cooperation – Opportunities and Alternatives for Young People), January 2006.

Box 5 – Selection of youth-related human rights obligations

- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)¹⁷ and its two Optional Protocols¹⁸
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)¹⁹
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights²⁰
- International labour standards relevant to work and young persons.²¹

Websites

International

- Eldis Gateway to development information, children and young people reporter: www.eldis.org/children/index.htm
- Infoyouth Network: www.infoyouth.org
- International Council on National Youth Policy: www.icnyp.net
- Youth at the United Nations: www.un.org/youth
- UNFPA Youth Peer Education Network: www.youthpeer.org/
- World Bank Children & Youth: www.worldbank.org/childrenand youth/
- Youth Employment Network: www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/yen/

Switzerland

- Foundation for Education and Development: www.globaleducation.ch
- Swiss Federation of Youth Associations: www.sqjv.ch
- Children- and Youth-Promotion: www.infoklick.ch

Youth Websites

International

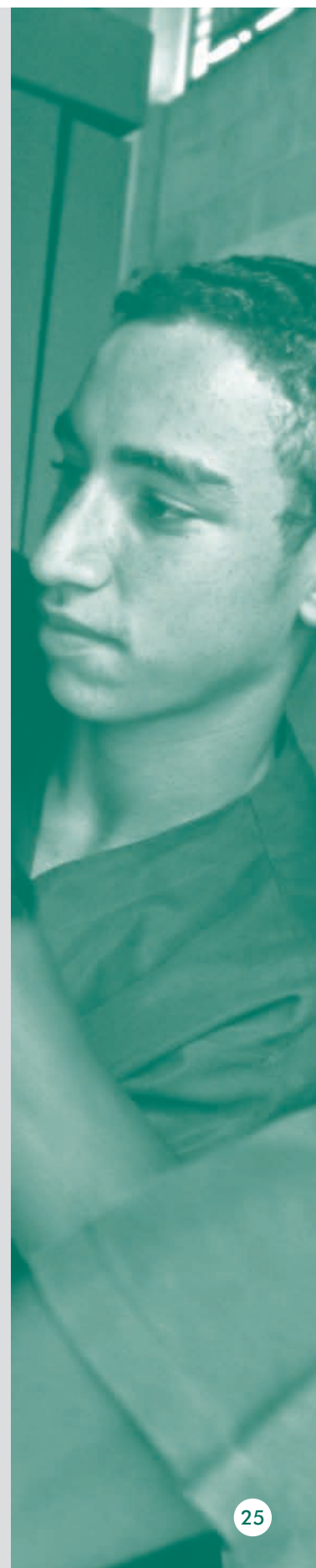
- TakingITGlobal: www.takingitglobal.org
- UNICEF Voices of Youth: www.unicef.org/voy/
- World Bank Youthink!: www.youthink.worldbank.org/

Switzerland

- SDC: Youth-too: www.youth-too.ch
- Terres des hommes, YouTdh: www.tdh.ch/youtdh/homepage
- UN4YOUth: www.educa.ch/dyn/161421.asp

Endnotes

- ¹ Throughout the document, the terms “youth” and “young people”, “young persons” are used as synonyms.
- ² UN: World Economic and Social Survey 2007.
- ³ UNFPA: State of the World Population 2006.
- ⁴ United Nations: World Population Prospects – The 2004 Revision: “By 2050 one of five countries is still projected to have a median age equal or less than 30 years” (i.e. 50% of the population will be age 30 or younger). The youngest populations will be found in least developed countries, 11 of which are projected to have median ages equal to or less than 23 years in 2050, including Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, the Niger and Uganda.
- ⁵ Less developed regions: all regions of Africa, Asia (excl. Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean plus Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia.
- ⁶ * = UN World Youth Report 2005, Young People Today, and in 2015.
- ⁷ ° = World Bank Youth Development Note Vol. 2# 1 HIV Prevention among Youth.
- ⁸ # = UNFPA 2006
- ⁹ UNFPA State of World Population 2006.
- ¹⁰ UNHCR 2006
- ¹¹ Adopted on 18 September 2000 (A/RES/55/2) at the Millennium Summit of the UN General Assembly and confirmed by the World Summit of the UN General Assembly in the World Summit Outcome of 24 October 2005 (A/RES/60/1).
- ¹² See Millennium Project:
<http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/gti.htm>
- ¹³ SDC’s Human Rights Policy: Towards a Life in Dignity – Realising Rights for Poor People, 2006.
- ¹⁴ Gender Equality: A Key for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development, SDC, 2003.
- ¹⁵ Transparent democratic system, independent justice system; efficient and effective use of government budgets; respect for human rights; fight against corruption. WSSD Fact-sheet: Strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development, SDC, 2003.
- ¹⁶ SDC has ten priority themes: Health; Education; Migration; Water; Rural Development; Employment and the Economy; Environment; Rule of Law/Democracy; Conflict Prevention and Transformation; Regional Integration. In addition, SDC has two cross-cutting themes: Gender; Governance.
- ¹⁷ Young people between the ages of 15 and 18 also fall under the legal definition of child as established in international treaties (particularly the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which was ratified by Switzerland on 24 February 1997).
- ¹⁸ Switzerland ratified the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict on 26 June 2002. It ratified the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography on 19 September 2006).
- ¹⁹ CEDAW was ratified by Switzerland on 27 March 1997.
- ²⁰ Switzerland accessed both Covenants on 18 June 1992.
- ²¹ The list of international labour standards regarding the elimination of child labour and protection of children and young persons can be found here: <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/subjectE.htm#s03>



Acronyms

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
ICNYP	International Council on National Youth Policies
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	Information and communication technologies
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN	United Nations Organization
WPAY	World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond

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