

# A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH-LED DEVELOPMENT



4<sup>th</sup> World Youth Congress  
Québec City, Canada  
August 2008



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## Editor's Introduction



*Aoife O'Grady, Editor*

'A Celebration of  
Youth-led Development'  
– we have repeated these  
words over and over  
again to young people  
from around the world in  
preparation for  
this book.

From our bustling Peace  
Child office in the UK, we  
have described the theme  
of this book hundreds of  
times, over the phone and  
via email to contributors  
near and far.

We did this in an attempt to gather together in one book  
stories of the most vibrant, colourful and effective youth-led  
development projects that the world has to offer.  
Our quest took us to the fourth World Youth Congress in  
Québec city, which shared our vision of celebrating the field of  
youth-led development.

In Québec, young people from across the world gathered to  
share 10 days of workshops, discussions, exhibitions, action  
projects and entertainment. The group of over 500 young  
people that assembled in Québec city was the perfect source  
for material. Just some of the many faces behind the stories in  
this book attended the congress where they exchanged ideas,  
connected with each other and took the time to share their  
projects with us.

We felt that the story of the World Youth Congress in Québec,  
as well as the history of the entire congress series, deserved to  
be documented alongside the project stories because of the  
huge impact it has had on the field of youth-led development.

Before any writing appeared on the 96 pages to follow,  
we sat down and debated what the aims of this book were. In  
the end, we came up with two fundamental objectives:

- ✧ To document the World Youth Congress series
- ✧ To showcase stories of youth-led development  
from around the world

We sincerely want readers to get a sense, not only of the scale  
and scope of the World Youth Congress series, but also the  
immense spirit behind it. We also want you to get a glimpse  
of the reality and personalities behind youth-led projects  
across the world.

Inspiration is a word that is overused in modern culture, but  
if we have done our job right then these stories, told in the  
voices of young people  
about the work they are  
doing for a better world,  
should lift and inspire you.  
They should offer you hope  
that change is possible, and  
it is happening.

Armed with this knowledge  
and inspiration,  
we hope that readers will  
be encouraged to consider  
the role that young people  
can and should play  
in the future of  
international development.



*Dana Podmolikova,  
Publications Manager*





## Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland, Former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Member of The Elders



This year celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The declaration was launched at a time when the world was a very fearful place. Unfortunately, for many, this is still the case. So I am delighted to introduce this book, 'A Celebration of Youth-led Development' because I believe it captures the stories of young people who are enacting the declaration in their daily lives and trying to banish that sense of fear from our world.

Having failed to live up to the vision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we still find ourselves in a divided world - a world of conflict and inequality. That is why the concept of protecting and promoting human rights is more important than ever, and embracing the Declaration as a living document for our time is so essential. The Declaration also speaks of "duties to the community" as the way in which each of us can reach the full development of our personality. Through embarking on projects in areas such as education, poverty reduction, health and gender equality, the young people in this book are empowering their communities to claim basic human rights. They are seeking to restore the sense of dignity, self-worth and identity that accompanies these rights.

Similarly, when young people gather to listen, learn, share and debate at events such as the World Youth Congress, held recently in Quebec, they show that they are a part of the growing global network of young people who will not stand by and watch as people are brutalised, exploited or ignored. They are looking for accountability from their governments, and indeed from the generations that have gone before them. We, the elders of our global village, are listening. The role of elders in many societies is to remind the young of values, but it's also their responsibility to engage with their young people. We are ready to engage, to listen and open a space for intergenerational dialogue so we can learn from each other.

The young people featured on the pages of this book have shown the immense potential of youth-led development and the power of peer-to-peer programmes. I believe this book demonstrates that young people should be supported by their communities and their governments in their efforts to make a difference in the world.

Every person can make a difference to make the world a better place. Every single person can make a difference no matter how large or small.

*Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland (1990-1997), Former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Member of The Elders.*

## Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General Of Canada



It gives me immense pleasure to introduce this publication, which both celebrates the tremendous achievements of youth-led development, and documents the 4th World Youth Congress, held in the City of Québec.

I was delighted to welcome the numerous, cheerful and dynamic delegates, hailing from around the world, to Québec. Their presence reinforced my conviction that youth possess a unique message of hope and solidarity that should guide humanity in its quest for a more just world in which we all have an equal opportunity to flourish.

2008 constitutes the midpoint in the world's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and the sum of the extraordinary efforts and actions that youth are displaying in their communities demonstrates beyond any doubt that youth have a crucial role to play in the global partnership for development.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again congratulate all of the young people around the world whose social engagement and involvement are remarkable. I would like to tell you that you are full citizens and are our source of inspiration. Continue to aim high, to dream big, and rest assured that your commitment and determination is helping humanity realize its dearest and most ambitious wish: to make a better world.

*Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Governor General of Canada.*

J'ai le très grand plaisir de présenter cette publication qui célèbre les acquis extraordinaires, et le leadership des jeunes en matière de développement et qui rend compte du 4e Congrès mondial des jeunes, tenu à Québec.

J'ai été ravie d'accueillir les très nombreux délégués, enjoués et dynamiques, en provenance du monde entier à Québec. Leur présence a renforcé ma conviction que la jeunesse est porteuse d'un message d'espoir et de solidarité qui doit guider l'humanité dans sa quête d'un monde plus juste où toutes et tous auraient des chances égales de s'épanouir.

2008 marque le milieu de la campagne mondiale pour l'atteinte des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, et la somme d'efforts et d'actions extraordinaires à l'initiative des jeunes dans leurs collectivités, montre sans équivoque le rôle crucial qui leur revient de jouer dans le partenariat mondial pour le développement.

Je profite de l'occasion pour féliciter une fois de plus tous les jeunes du monde dont l'engagement social et l'implication sont remarquables. Je tiens à vous dire que vous êtes des citoyennes et des citoyens à part entière et notre source d'inspiration. Continuez à viser haut, à rêver de grandes choses et soyez assurés que votre dévouement et votre détermination aident l'humanité à réaliser son vœu le plus cher et le plus ambitieux, celui de bâtir un monde meilleur.

*Son Excellence la très Honorable Michaëlle Jean, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Gouverneure Générale du Canada.*

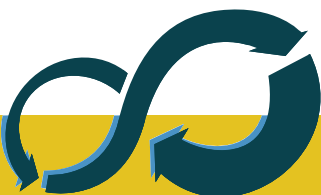


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## Section One

Youth:

A Magnificent Resource for the World!





# Youth – a Magnificent Resource for the World!

As we start this celebration of youth-led development, it is worth reminding ourselves of the amazing contribution that youth have made to a myriad of other fields including the arts, science and politics.



Alexander the Great

Stories of individuals who have changed the world while still in their teens or early 20s have gained legend in popular culture. Think of the impact that Alexander the Great had on the world: he won his first battle at 16, and he created the largest empire the world before his 25th birthday! Think of the genius of the composer, Mozart and the Romantic poet, Keats. Think of the hysteria that surrounded the rise of The Beatles and the role they played in shaping Western culture in the revolutionary world of the 1960s.

The following pages reveal how young people not only thrive, but actually set the standard in the diverse fields of culture, sport, science and business. Why should the field of international development be any different? The success of the World Youth Congress series as well as the diverse, innovative and inspiring stories of youth-led development that appear in this book reveal the massive potential and the existing momentum behind the field of youth-led development.

## Celebrating Youth-led Cultural Development

Mozart, Schubert, Keats, Shelley composed some of their finest music and poetry under the age 25 and reinvented their chosen media for their generations.

More recently, the volcanic cultural revolution known as 'the Sixties' was led by young people around the world. This massive shift in society was driven by the arrival of rock 'n' roll with young performers Bill Haley, Elvis Presley and Little Richard. In literature, the beat poets – all in their twenties – turned the literary scene on its head and set a road towards the mad, colourful, psychedelic, manic energy that exploded across the decade.

It was a revolution experienced over the radio, on the record player, on the pages of books and record album covers, on the television, film, live comedy and cabarets.

A constant argument in this book is that, in the final analysis, whether or not an activity is youth-led, youth-written or youth-performed is beside the point: it is the quality of the final achievement – the music, the poetry, the novel, the painting, or the development project – that matters.

In the Sixties, it was the quality of the music and literature and ideas that were extraordinary – mind-expanding! Nothing in human society was ever the same after the sixties. Youth had, indeed, changed the world.



The Beatles

## Celebrating Youth-led Development of Sport

Nowhere is youth leadership more apparent than in the world of sport.

Most of the stars of sport are in their late teens and early twenties. Check out the ages of the world record holders in almost every Olympic sport, and you will find that they are under 25. Most athletes retire from their sport around their 30th birthday.

And young people dictate the tone and atmosphere of a sport. It was young people who fought racism in soccer – welcoming African players into their sport – and vigorously defending them against the racist slurs which some few fans hurled against them. It was young people who fought the Olympic authorities for the inclusion of new sports – like Beach Volleyball – into the games.

It is the youngest stars who capture the hearts and minds of the public when they excel as child prodigies.

Nadia Comaneci became world-renowned as the young Romanian gymnast who scored a perfect 10 in the Montreal Olympics to gain a gold medal at the age of 14.



Theo Walcott

Theo Walcott became the youngest English football player ever to score a hat-trick in England's recent surprise win over Croatia. He was 19.

The list of young athletes that have shocked the world with their prowess at an early age is endless - from gymnast Diane dos Santos who won the World Artistic Gymnastics title aged 20 from Brazil, and javelin thrower Rocío Comba aged 19 from Argentina who has qualified for Olympic games in Beijing, to marathon runner Martha Komu from Kenya, aged 25, who won the Paris Marathon in 2008.



Nadia Comaneci

Youth – with their speed and their energy, but also their assured professionalism and skill – dominate the world of sport. In spite of the intense pressure and attention that is often heaped on their shoulders, most young athletes cope admirably, representing themselves and their countries with pride.

## Youth-led Political Development

Governance is generally considered the concern of the oldest, wisest members of a nation or a community. Yet there are plenty of examples of young people who have led and created powerful political movements.

The Civil Rights movement in the USA was led and organised by mostly very young people – Jesse Jackson and Andrew Young were teenagers when they met and worked with Martin Luther King. King, himself was only 25 when he organised the Montgomery Alabama bus boycott in support of Rosa Parks who had refused to give up her seat to a white man.

Several kings, dukes and maharajahs took the reins of absolute authority in their countries in their teens and early 20s. William Pitt the Younger famously became an MP at 22, Chancellor of the Exchequer at 23, and became prime minister at 24. Although his appointment was greeted with laughter, his wit and eloquence won over the unruly British House of Commons and allowed him to go on to win a famous victory in a general election – again, before his 25th Birthday. Meanwhile, Argentinian revolutionary figure, politician and author, Ernesto "Che" Guevara, was only 28 when he played his part in the revolution in Cuba in 1956.

A recent survey by the US Foreign Policy magazine identified Bhutan's king, Jigme Wangchuck, 28, as the world's youngest head of state. However young people are generally denied the right to vote until they are 18, and the chance to represent their country's in parliament until between 21 and 25. Until

steps are taken to enfranchise youth from their early teens – and allow students to take up positions in the world's parliaments, the creativity of youth in politics is always more likely to operate on the fringes of politics, rather than at its centre.

29 Mar 1968, Memphis, Tennessee, USA - US National Guard troops block off Beale Street as Civil Rights marchers pass by on March 29, 1968. - Image by © Bettmann/Corbis <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/deed.en>

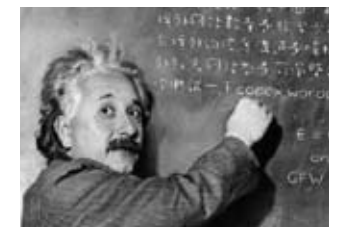


## Youth-led Scientific Development

Scientists, on the other hand, get the chance to shine in their laboratories at any age. Many of the world's most remarkable scientific breakthroughs have come at the hands of young, genius scientists.

Among the most famous are:

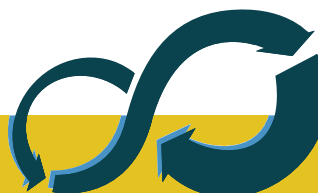
- \* **Albert Einstein** – who wrote his famous theory of relativity paper when only 25 while working as a post office worker in Zurich, Switzerland.
- \* **William Lawrence Bragg** – who won a Nobel Prize for Physics when he was just 25 for his work on the x-ray diffraction of crystals in 1915.
- \* **Jessie Jacobsen** – a young New Zealander, who was 25 when she won a prize for her work on identifying the gene that causes Huntington's Disease – and helped advance progress towards a cure.



Renowned scientist, Albert Einstein

Medicine has had its fair share of young genius scientists, but, currently, it is in the field of the Internet and computing sciences that young people definitely have the edge. Luis von Ahn Earns, aged 27 from the USA, recently won a MacArthur Genius Award for his work on Human Computation – leading work that enables computers to identify and respond only to human instructions.

Unlike in politics, in science, youth operate on a level playing field with elders and, very often, they come up with the goods.





## Youth-led Business Development

The most remarkable business development of the last few decades has been the development of the personal computer – and this has been almost entirely youth-led. From Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak developing the Apple Computer in a garage in Northern California to Bill Gates and Paul Allen dropping out of Harvard to create the Microsoft PC Operating Systems. None of the IT Pioneers was older than 30. Older minds came in later once the potential of the business had



Mark Zuckerberg

been identified – but still, the innovation comes from teenagers and those in their early 20s. Consider Mark Zuckerberg, the head of the Facebook empire. He is 24 years old and has already taken his Facebook idea from his Harvard dormitory room, to become the most visited social media website in the world. The site boasts 110 million active users who regularly log on to gaze at their friends' profiles and post a wealth of information about themselves: phone numbers, personal preferences, romantic timetables. Zuckerberg is now worth an estimated \$1.5 billion and, with the number of Facebook users growing by at least 150,000 daily, that fortune is destined to increase.

Possibly even more interesting is the story of Shai Agassi – a young dot.com millionaire who has parlayed his skill as an IT innovator into a plan to create solar electric transport systems which, may be our great hope for weaning the world from its addiction to fossil fuels. Agassi's genius is dreaming in whole system terms – a nationwide grid of battery 'filling stations' – where electric cars will exchange run-down batteries for fully-charged ones. The batteries will belong to the electric

companies who will read a bar-code on the car, and send the bill to the owner at the end of the month. With a nationwide grid of such stations, cars and trucks will be able to travel as far as they wish, without waiting for 6-8 hours for the battery to charge. Already, he has \$200m in venture capital and the State of Israel eager to install a grid – with Renault/Nissan ready to build the electric cars that will replace the soon-to-be-obsolete petrol-powered fleet. Soon, governments will realise that it is cost-effective – and climatically essential – to invest in such infrastructures. Scientific American calculated in



Steve Jobs

January 2008 that a Solar-Electric Infrastructure for the entire United States would cost \$480 billion – significantly cheaper than a \$3 trillion dollar Iraq war and a big saving on the \$3 trillion that goes out annually to overseas oil-suppliers.

And you can bet that it will be young American entrepreneurs who will lead the charge towards the Green Economy, and reap the rewards of the 5 million new jobs it will create along with the prosperity that will pull the world out of its current, terminal financial recession.

## Celebrating Youth-led Development?

By David Woollcombe



© Matthias Schmidt  
David Woollcombe

Youth-led development (YLD) is defined as community improvement projects designed and delivered by young people aged 14-30 – usually working as volunteers.

YLD often provides a young person's first experience of designing and implementing a social or commercial enterprise in his/her community.

Celebrating the achievements of young people in the fields of science, business, culture, sport and politics leads President of Peace Child International to call for international support for the field of youth-led development.

## Origins

The phrase 'youth-led development' was first heard at the World Youth Congress in Hawai'i in October 1999.

Delegates to that Congress said very clearly to the organisers:

"Education is our top priority but, once educated we want to be trained, enabled – and funded – to take action to address the challenges faced by our generation through sustainable youth-led development. We want, in Gandhi's words, to 'be the change' we want to see in the world"

This remarkable statement led Peace Child to set up the 'Be the Change' (BTC), youth-led sustainable development action fund to pursue the 10 priority goals agreed by the delegates. Eight of the goals prioritised by the delegates actually mirrored the eight Millennium Development Goals agreed by UN Member States at the UN Millennium Summit in New York in September 2000.

## Growth

Young people themselves proved the value of YLD by coming up with literally thousands of brilliant initiatives of which, sadly, the Peace Child BTC programme could only fund a handful. Celebrities like Ryan Hreljacic and Craig Kielburger – setting up Ryan's Well and Free the Children respectively – pointed the potential of the field, while courageous young people from the South – like Florence Wanjuku in Kenya and Djamila Ousmane from Niger convinced everyone in PCI, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that young people could make poverty history if they were given a chance.



Kandeh Yumkellah of UNIDO is recognised as a Champion of Youth

The UN agencies have provided exceptional leadership in the field of YLD. By encouraging youth participation in development in the World Programme of Action for Youth, the UN Programme for Youth has carried a torch for YLD which other UN Agencies have followed. UNIDO and ILO have led on the development of a Youth Job Creation programme for four of the world's least-developed countries in West Africa. UN-Habitat has now set up a Youth Opportunities Fund to promote Youth-led Development in the World's cities.

Civil society agencies have also been in the vanguard of the rapid development of YLD: the Prince's Trust – and its international arm – Prince's Youth Business International – have been doing YLD for years, supporting and funding disadvantaged young people to start and run small businesses. The International Youth Foundation has business incubator programmes, and job training / lifeskills programmes in several countries. SPARK has set up youth Business Incubators all over the Balkans with the support of the Dutch government. Plan International has a youth fund for the young people of the regions in which they are working. The Commonwealth Youth Programme, and the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative have been advancing funds to youth for years – with the support of the British Government, Ashoka Youth Venture, and Free the Children.

Check out the resource section on Page 88 – and you will find over 20 sources of funding for YLD.

## The Future

The logic of investing in YLD seems to us inescapable. But it is a logic that has escaped the leadership of the world's major development agencies. Those that do invest in youth are quickly recognised as Champions of Youth at our Congresses.

Twice a year, since our first congress, we have written to them - updating them on the fantastic evidence we have accumulated to prove the effectiveness of YLD. Every time, we have urged them to indicate who, in their department, deals with the YLD sector. Only 5 of the 27 members of the OECD Development Committee have identified an officer with responsibility for that 60-70% of the populations of their client states who are under 25. Youth – as a sector – simply are not on their radar.

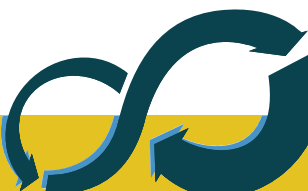


Hopefully that will change: increasingly governments of the least-developed countries recognise both the problem – and the potential – of the current youth bulge in population. Hopefully, the next ten years will see them persuading donor nations to take youth seriously and invest in youth as a sector.



The next step for the organisers of the World Youth Congress is to complete a benchmarking study of each major Development Agency's funding of youth-led development.

We plan to complete it ahead of the next World Youth Congress in Istanbul in 2010 - so that we have a basis of knowledge on which to build future strategies for YLD. The study will also give us a baseline of demand from the South, and delivery from the North from which to measure progress at future congresses.







© Nafiz Shuva Zaman

## Section Two

The World Youth Congress Series -  
Celebrating & Promoting  
Youth-led Development





# WORLD YOUTH CONGRESS SERIES...

## What is it all about?

### The Challenge

"Our challenge is to rediscover a sense of harmony with the environment and with each other to sustain life through the next 1,000 years. That's what this congress is all about."

These were the sentiments of the young editors who prepared the book for the first World Youth Congress held in Hawai'i in 1999. Nine years and four youth congresses later, this challenge, indeed this vision, continues to drive both the congress series and the field of youth-led development.

'Living in harmony with the environment and each other' may seem like an abstract and fantastical vision. It may even seem childish and sentimental, and it is certainly unlikely to appear on any policy documents, studies or papers. However, seemingly simplistic visions such as these provide the spark for reflection, learning, planning and tangible actions, and this is what the World Youth Congress series, as well as the many diverse youth-led development projects that appear in this book, are all about...

### The History

Cast your minds back to 1992. Young people of the world watched on in hope as their governments gathered at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Here, they produced Agenda 21, an action agenda designed to show how to save the planet and improve the lives of the world's poorest peoples at the same time.

This should have been a turning point for our planet. But it was not. Five years later, those same governments reconvened in New York. Their progress on Agenda 21 was disappointing. The President of the General Assembly, Ambassador Razali Ismail of Malaysia, admitted that governments had failed and that it was now up to NGOs and grassroots movements to intensify their efforts and to increase pressure on governments.

NGO Peace Child International, a long time advocate for youth empowerment, heard this rallying cry and answered it by bringing together 612 young people to the first World Youth Congress in Hawai'i in 1999. Here, young people would no longer look on, but they would listen, learn, debate, and have their voices heard.



© Ben Powless

# HAWAII



Millennium Young People's Congress in 1999

### Hawai'i 1999

*Organised by Peace Child International in association with Youth for Environmental Service, Honolulu Hawai'i.*

Hawai'i was the first home of the congress series. As the 612 delegates gathered together for the first time, there was surely an expectant buzz in the air, an unspoken feeling that this was the beginning of something important.

Young people are often dismissed as being impractical dreamers, so achieving a tangible outcome from the congress was important. This outcome came in the form of 'top ten global priorities'. These priorities clearly set out the problems that young people wanted to see addressed in the new Millennium.



This may sound like a familiar tale, because around the same time, world leaders were also discussing the issues they should address over the coming years. The leaders' talks saw the creation of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Coincidentally or not, the MDGs largely mirrored the young peoples priorities. An example of great minds thinking alike?!

"It was my privilege and responsibility to attend the Millennium Young People's Congress in 1999. I remember the long days of debates aimed at establishing our top global priorities for the new millennium. One of the key ideas which emerged was that we need to see all of our priorities as connected and inter-dependent. They do not exist independently of one another.

Although there are serious challenges, looking into the future, I also see many reasons for hope. I see that Canada brought The Kyoto Protocol home and ratified it. I see that our government also passed the Kyoto Protocol Implementation Act in 2007 outlining specific responsibilities. Our voices of dissent do make a difference so, whether a member of government, in a position of authority, or an activist pursuing global justice, we need to Be The Change that we want to see in this world."

Michelle Luxon, Canada  
Be The Change Editor,

"I have really good memories from the congress in Hawai'i in 1999. I think what was particularly memorable was the diversity of young participants and the causes they represented.

I was really inspired by fellow young people who had clear directions and selfless goals in the world. In fact, this experience has helped me decide that I want to pursue a career in the area of human rights.

I think the MDGs which emerged after the congress are a great rallying point. Youth involvement is essential if the achievements of the MDGs are to be sustained because the young people of today will have to carry the torch in the future."

Kip Oebanda, 24, Philippines  
Delegate





# MOROCCO

## Morocco 2003

*Organised by Peace Child International in association with The Moroccan Youth Forum of the 3rd Millennium.*

Hard as it was to move on from the beaches of Hawai'i, the congress found an equally exotic new home in Morocco in 2003. By this time, the drive towards the achievement of the MDGs was in full swing and a key theme of the congress was answering the question, "What is the most effective way that young people can assist their governments and the UN to achieve the Millennium Development Goals?"

Delegates responded to this question with 'The Casablanca Declaration', a dynamic document designed to enable young people to understand their role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

However, the congress did not only deal in debate and declaration, Morocco 2003 turned theory into practice by introducing the Action Project section. Outside the confinement of the conference centre, over four days, delegates invaded every province of Morocco and found themselves living and working together with Moroccans to make a change in their host country.



*Opening of the congress in Casablanca*

"The 2nd World Youth Congress in Morocco was an adventure of a lifetime and it definitely played a role in moulding who I am today.

The action project section was the highlight of the event for me. My project involved building a model market or souk for a small village called Dar Bouazza, so the inhabitants would not have to travel long distances to sell their produce. My experience was empowering as I gained tremendous knowledge, insight and experience.

Currently, I do environmental work and I encourage young people to continue to 'Be the Change'. I am still making an impact thanks to the empowerment from Peace Child and the World Youth Congress."

**Tamoy Singh, Jamaica**  
Delegate

"The 2nd World Congress of Youth in Morocco was a determining moment in my life. During the Congress I heard about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for the first time and the concept immediately captured my imagination.

The real richness I found at the Congress was in the informal encounters with other young people from around the world and I made new friends throughout the congress.

The experience lives on - a group from the Moroccan Congress decided to found 'World Youth Citizens Network' which still exists five years later. What counts most, however, are the friendships which emerged across borders and, hey, we still have to live a whole "adult life" to make the world a better place!"

**Pascal Renaud, Germany**  
Delegate



# SCOTLAND



## Scotland 2005

*Organised by Peace Child International in association with the Scottish Executive, Scottish Youth Parliament and SCVO.*

In 2005, the congress moved to cooler climes when it was hosted by the city of Stirling in Scotland. As the half-way mark for achieving the MDGs crept ever closer, the delegates were once again asked to think about how they could assist their governments and the UN to achieve these crucial goals.

The action section, introduced in Morocco, continued in Scotland. Also, throughout the congress, delegates busily worked on creating a Youth-led Development Policy Document which was later circulated to all governments. An Action Guide entitled, 'Nothing For us Without Us' was also produced as an entry-level guide for young activists on how to get started in the Youth-led Development field.

"I was invited to WYC Scotland 2005 as part of the crew of Young Journalists. WYC was definitively one of the most important experiences of my life, not only as a journalist, but also as a youth activist. It was so interesting to learn how young people are trying to change the world, or at least their own communities, through initiatives they are inventing and managing. These kinds of events assure me that change is possible and there really are people working to achieve it!"

**Diana Plazas, Colombia**  
Young Journalist



*Lenka Duskova, Juan Chong, Hannah Klein and Pascal Renaud, delegates at the 3rd WYC in Scotland 2005*

"In the WYC 2005 policy document created at Stirling, we called on global leaders and the United Nations to recognize the contributions of youth-led development to addressing the MDGs and we called on the United Nations to establish a youth fund to support grassroots youth initiatives.

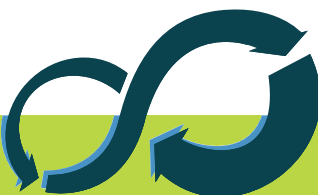
And, our voices were heard. The United Nations has also recently pledged to start a Youth Opportunities Fund.

In Scotland we embraced the tools for change generated by young people, and in 2008 in Quebec we celebrated the actions resulting from youth-led development initiatives worldwide. I am excited to see the wave of changes that occur between now and the Turkey WYC in 2010."

**Amber Zirnhelt, Canada**  
Delegate, Sustainable Cities



*Amaidhi Devaraj, face of the World Youth Congress in Scotland 2005*





# QUEBEC CITY

## Québec City 2008

Organised by Peace Child International in association with TakingITGlobal and World Youth Congress 2008.

From the beaches of Hawai'i, the desert of Morocco and the highlands of Scotland, in August 2008, the World Youth Congress moved to the olde worlde charm of chic Québec City! The 4th World Youth Congress brought together 525 participants from 108 countries.

230 workshops, round table discussions and activities were organised for delegates around the key congress themes; 'Collective Entrepreneurship, job creation and elimination of poverty', 'Water and Health' and 'Women and development and human rights'.

Opportunities to learn, interact and debate were complemented by a diverse cultural and celebratory programme, while a large exhibition offered delegates the opportunity to showcase their projects/programmes alongside those of the UN and other international organisations. Theory turned to action in the second half of the congress when the delegates dispersed across Québec to participate in 'Action Projects'. These practical community projects included painting a school and even renovating a cooperative bar!

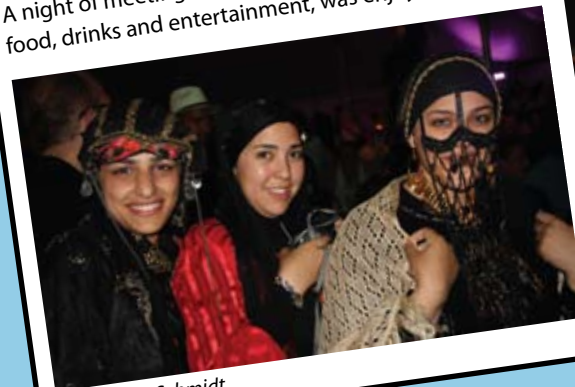
### INSPIRING SPEECHES AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

What better way to open our congress than with inspiring motivational speeches which roused the crowd at the opening ceremony. Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada opened the proceedings with a positive message for the gathered crowd. Delegates, dressed in the finery of their traditional costumes, applauded in appreciation as the six 'Champions of Youth'; Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean, Dr. Kumi Naidoo, the Founder and honorary President of CIVICUS; William Reese, Chief Executive Officer of the International Youth Foundation; Pierre Mairesse, the Director of Youth, Sport and Citizenship for the European Commission's Education and Culture Directorate; Kandeh Yumkella the Director General of UNIDO and Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Director of the Library of Alexandria in Egypt, received awards in recognition for the work they are doing in Governments and international institutions to promote the youth agenda around the world.

A night of meeting and greeting, accompanied by fine food, drinks and entertainment, was enjoyed by all!



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**ReGeneration 2008**  
Québec City 4th WORLD YOUTH CONGRESS

## TAKING TO THE STREETS FOR 'WORLD YOUTH WALK'

500 singing, dancing, chanting, drumming, marching delegates streaming through the streets of Québec, equipped with banners and loudspeakers, certainly sent out the message that the World Youth Congress was in town on August 12th, International Youth Day.

A carnival atmosphere pervaded as the crowd peacefully and joyfully made the 8 km trek from Laval University to the heart of Old Québec. Delegates were cheered on by local residents as they marched by. Many carried national flags or wore traditional dress, many others bore banners displaying messages such as 'Help us heal the world'.

The World Youth Walk ended with a huge music concert hosted by Lojiq in which the UN Message for the International Youth Day, which focused on climate change, was



© Matthias Schmidt

read out by eight international youth and presented to Mr Sha Zukang, representative of the UN Secretary General and

Madame Michelle Courchesne, Québec's Minister of Education, Sport and Leisure. The Secretary General's words of warning undoubtedly resonated with many of the WYC delegates in attendance when he said, "Unless we make radical changes in the way we live, by the time the youth of 2008 reach my age, the world may well have become a rather inhospitable place ... I urge young people around the world to invest their energies and bright ideas into shaping a safer, more sustainable planet."



© Matthias Schmidt

## WORKSHOP FIESTA!

With 230 workshops, this was far and away the biggest workshop agenda we have ever attempted at a Congress. Additionally, we were committed to hold them in English, French and Spanish – so as many as possible of the delegates could attend workshops in their mother tongue. It worked – just! Despite rooms being spread across a wide area of the campus, the indefatigable Coördinateur de Programmation, Élie Belley-Pelletier, managed to brief the clan leaders and ensure that every one knew where they needed to go.

One of the most popular workshops was, as always, the one on "How to

make a career in the UN." Run three times in three different languages by Anke Green from the UN Programme for Youth, she de-mystified the inner workings of the UN system and explained the many different entry points for young people into the UN – from working as an intern, to joining a national delegation as a representative of your country. She also explained the NCRE – National Competitive Recruitment Examination – the way that most UN staff are recruited.

Other workshops covered subjects like assessing progress on the MDGs, Community Youth Mapping, Christian Aid's approaches to Activism(Ctr./Alt./

Shift) and several run by key Congress partners Plan Nagua, Mercy Corps and Club 2/3. Though few were as crowded as Anke Green's, most were well-attended and, according to the evaluations, almost all were very well-received by the delegates.



Congress World Café



# QUEBEC CITY

## Local Action Projects

Action projects have always been a feature of the World Youth Congress. At the first, delegates planted a Peace Garden. In Morocco, the organisers arranged Local Action Projects in all 16 provinces. The Scots sent delegates to projects to the Highlands and Islands as well as the cities. In Quebec, projects were chosen within a 200km radius of Quebec City to reduce travel time, and make more time for delegates to get to know the communities they stayed in.

Mirwais Rahmani from Afghanistan went on a painting action project at a school in Quebec City – designing and painting cartoons and images on the walls that can assist learning. “I painted murals all over the walls,” he said, “It was great to work with the kids. I am planning to implement the same project when I get back to Afghanistan and will volunteer with a youth group to do it. I have had so much fun and training here – and learned about different cultures. I will always recall my memories here as the best time I have ever had in my life.”



The Martin Clan on their Local Action Project

Other action projects included painting canoes at a summer camp, painting a community house, building a rustic campsite, creating foot-ball fields, doing environmental clean-ups, and filming a video. This last was entitled – “Putting words into actions” – about a young man who campaigns against poverty, environmental degradation and apathy – but fails to walk his talk in his own life. “We wrote the scenario together and took different roles in the shooting and editing,” said Clan Leader, Sonia Djeldi. “It’s a great team-building exercise.”

Some delegates complained that it was only when they went on the Action Projects that they really got to know the other members of their clans. Brooke Ward, a member of the Martin clan, told that it took a day of hard sweat planting shrubs on a woodland trail, followed by a thunderstorm and a multi-cultural meal prepared by Moroccans, Tunisians and Pakistanis for them all to really get to know each other – their star signs and marital status! This makes us think about having the Action Projects at the start of the next Congress instead of the end. Trouble is, after the fun of the Action Projects, no one really had any appetite for more workshops and speeches. Fun, sun, open air – good friends! For many, it was the best thing about Quebec.



## International Youth Day



It falls in the middle of Northern Hemisphere summer holidays, so there’s never any school or college-based activity. Which is why the World Youth Congress chooses to celebrate it. And in Quebec, it was well and truly celebrated!

12th August!  
Be honest?!  
How many of you know it is International Youth Day?

The day started with a video hook-up to the Serbian Ministry of Youth in Belgrade, and the Youth Assembly at the UN in New York. At the Congress Opening Plenary, many speakers highlighted the IYD theme: “Climate Change – Youth take Action!” The afternoon saw a performance of *Green Peace Child* – a musical which shows young people taking action and stopping climate change. After that, there was the march through Quebec City and the reading of

Ban Ki Moon’s Intl. Youth Day Statement. Future World Youth Congresses will now be organised around Intl. Youth Day – and feature a march to involve local youth. In this way, we will ensure that this oft-neglected Day will grow and become a more permanent feature in the calendars of all young people.



## Congress Exhibition

The Exhibition of Youth-led Development projects at this Congress was the biggest ever. It attracted interest not only from the delegates: for the first time, the Congress Exhibition was open to the public who thronged the 94 stalls for the five days it was open. The UN stand was the biggest – with 11 UN agencies displaying how they work with young people. The Moroccan stand was particularly attractive with cushions and Moroccan curios to delight the visitors. Most showed how young people are taking a lead in their communities – to clean up the drinking water, assert human rights, fight corruption, promote education and literacy, combat climate change and HIV-AIDS along with



a multitude of other innovative, youth projects – many of which are described later in this book.



## Special Events

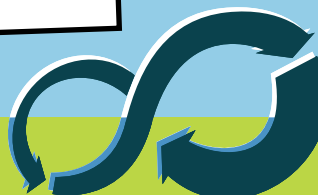
The Quebec City Congress included many Special Events. One of the most exceptional was a dialogue organised by Apathy is Boring, featuring several top rock stars hosted by Canada’s Governor General Michaëlle Jean. Another was a full dress ‘Debate’ on the motion: “This House believes in the rights-based approach to development.” This allowed a wide range of views to be expressed before the participants voted to carry the motion unanimously. There was also the first Youth-Government Round Table – bringing together representatives of the Canadian and German Governments + leaders of three UN Agencies with the youth who want to work more closely with them. The main outcome was a decision to research exactly how much Least-Developed Country governments invest in youth-led development initiatives, and how much the International Donor Community encourage them to increase such investments. The results of this research will be published and peer-reviewed in time for the next Congress in Istanbul in 2010.



## Virtual Congress

The Virtual Congress, run by TakingITGlobal, provided an opportunity for the thousands of delegates who were unable to come to Québec in person to actively participate in the event from the comfort of their own homes! Events and dialogues such as the opening and closing ceremonies, the talent show, dialogue with the Governor General, as well as some workshops and roundtable discussions were broadcast live on the internet. Delegates, both real and virtual, participated in discussion forums and live webchats and uploaded photos, articles and videos detailing their personal congress experience.

<http://www.wyc2008.qc.ca/virtual>





# QUEBEC CITY

## YOUNG JOURNALISTS

25 Young Journalists from 20 countries worked tirelessly - often until 5am! - to create the daily Congress newspaper. "Regeneration Press" in English, French and Spanish. The journalists room became a hive of energy as delegates pooled their multi-national knowledge and skill sets to produce, in addition to the daily journal, 12 hours of live radio each day for Radio Enfant-ado - which became 105.7 Regeneration FM during the Congress. They also worked on their blogs, stories and TV documentaries for their outlets back home.



## HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN WRONGS



All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood

Article 1 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human rights.

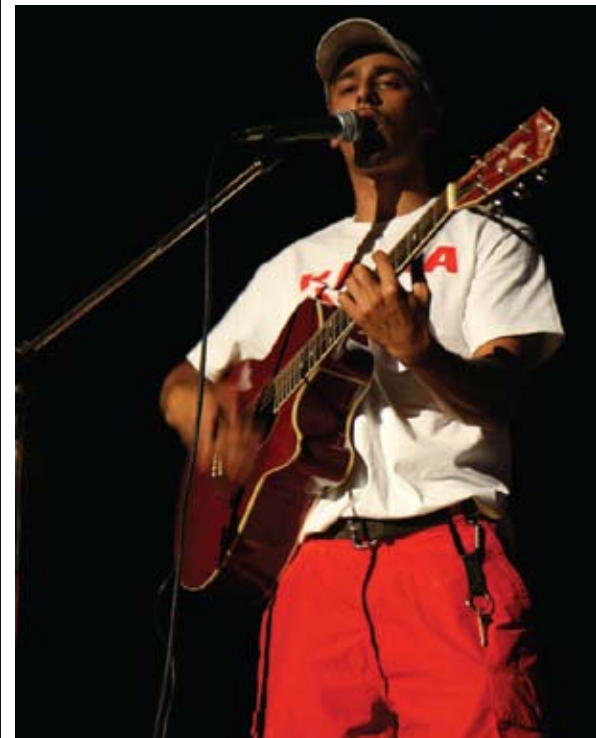
The basic concept of human rights has existed for centuries. Unfortunately, the tendency to violate the rights of the individual, especially as they have been defined in modern times, has been ingrained in society for as long as there have been people on the planet. And despite huge leaps in the recognition of human rights throughout the 20th century, international and national human rights organizations continue to report that human rights are still being violated in many parts of the world. Today we at the present focus on human rights, which of course refer to the basic rights and freedoms to which all humans are entitled. This includes civil and political rights, the right to life, liberty and freedom of expression, and equality before the law. Human rights also include social, cultural and economic rights, including the right to participate in culture, the right to food, the right to work, and the right to education. Each of us has had our eyes opened by the many stories that we have come across in just a few short days at the congress. In this edition you will find interesting stories that come from delegates at this very congress, articles focusing on every level of human rights, from academic theories to the rights of women, and articles outlining our views of human rights based on our own experiences.

This edition of ReGeneration Press contains articles and images which may be considered controversial. All content is the opinion of the Young Journalists only, and does not necessarily reflect the views of Peace Child International or the World Youth Congress.

Cette édition de ReGeneration contient plusieurs articles et images qui pourraient être choquants. Tous les contenus sont des opinions des jeunes journalistes, et ne reflètent pas nécessairement les positions de Peace Child International ou du CMI.

## YOUNG ARTISTS AND PERFORMERS

The Young Artists and Performers, included writers, poets, actors and actresses, singers, musicians and hip-hop artists from all four corners of the world - New Zealand to Russia to Morocco and Brazil. They prepared a series of shows during the Congress, performing at the Opening and Closing ceremonies, showcasing their talents before delegates, speakers and guests. During their action project, they prepared an impressive cultural fusion show.



© Ben Powless

## YOUNG EDUCATORS

Regeneration 2008 was the first congress where a special Young Educators programme was provided. The 30 Young Educators participating came from countries as diverse as Canada, Iraq, Estonia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Indonesia. The majority were teachers in primary or secondary schools, some worked as educators for NGOs on issues such as environment and human rights. The diversity of age, culture and experience resulted in a highly informative mix of discussions and practical skills training. The Young Educators ideas are now being collated in a 'world lesson pack', an online resource where the educators can submit, discuss and download lesson plans that they have found successful.



## WHAT CAN YOUNG PEOPLE DO TO HELP THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO ACHIEVE THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND MAKE POVERTY HISTORY?

# 1

"Young people should be strong and vocal advocates for the concerns dear to them and they should not be afraid to educate their governments on those issues."

**Mae Mendelson,**  
Director of Hawai'i 1999 Congress



# 2

"There has not been nearly enough promotion of the MDGs, most people don't know what the MDGs are. Young people need to become active, to talk to their governments and get involved in co-management with government to make people aware of the importance of the MDGs."

**Luka Vitez,**  
Delegate Slovenia, United Games of Nations



# 3

"The main thing young people can do is participate - this means taking decisions in consultation with government."

**Alpha Bacar Barry,**  
Consultant For UN, Guinea



# 4

"Youth can do a lot for governments. They should go beyond debating the issue. They shouldn't just talk about the possibilities but they must participate actively in social and environmental projects and entrepreneurship programmes. The key is that young people must play a much more active role."

**Doris Hribernigg,**  
UNIDO

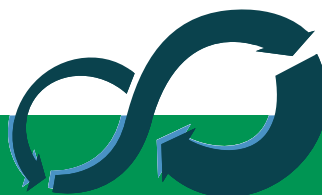




© Caroline Avilez Cioni

## Section Three

Celebrating Youth-led  
Development Projects





# Celebrating Youth-led Development Projects

All over the world, as you read these words, there are thousands of young people visualising, researching, planning, discussing and managing youth-led development projects. Why? Why do they not just roll in behind existing projects and organisations? Why do they insist on taking the lead? And why are they even involved at all, why not find their own way in the world without involving themselves in the plight of their communities?

The answer to these questions lie in the sentiments of the young people who appear on the pages to come. These young people feel compelled not only to take action, but to take the lead. They see the gaping holes that governments, institutions and indeed NGOs leave in the field of development. They see that they can reach, educate and motivate other young people in a way that outside agencies alone cannot. The young people who have undertaken these projects also see where and when support from established agencies is often helpful and sometimes crucial.

In the following pages, we have tried to represent the rich variety of projects happening around the globe. We gathered project stories from across our networks and contacts and even hounded delegates at the World Youth Congress in Québec with face-to-face interviews to create the collection that appears in this book.

We selected stories to represent the diversity of issues, locations, methods and backgrounds of youth-led development projects. However, this still represents only a tiny fraction of the youth-led project work that goes on everyday, often undocumented and unnoticed. We hope that we have plucked even some of the unsung young heroes from the shadows to show what can be done, what is being done.

We decided to divide the collected projects into categories based on the issues that they address so readers can get a sense of the varying problems young people face and myriad of solutions they come up with. The headings we chose were:

- \* Poverty
- \* Education
- \* Gender
- \* Health
- \* Environment
- \* Youth-led Business
- \* Communication and Cultural Exchange
- \* Peace-building



# Poverty

## Empowering Beekeeping in Rwanda

### ORGANISATION:

The Widows' Association with Rwanda Village Concept Project

### BACKGROUND:

The project was founded to help alleviate the poverty faced by the many widows and orphans struggling with the after-effects of the 1994 genocide.

### PROJECT:

A beekeeping project was established in July 2007 in the region of Nyakagezi in Rwanda. The project involved the cooperation of a number of organisations; The Widows' Association, Rwanda Village Concept Project, Bristol Volunteers Development from Abroad, End Poverty Now, a vet from ARDI and two agronomists of Huye Sector, as local leaders.

Project Manager, Hovaire Nsabimana of the Rwanda Village Concept Project, talks about the process;

"Rwanda was deeply affected by the 1994 genocide, and the ensuing events, and I believe it is yet to come to terms with its past. The event caused the uprooting hundreds of thousands of orphans and widows. This project aims to empower these widows and orphans.

We felt that beekeeping in particular offered a number of benefits, including the production of honey, beeswax, royal jelly, propolis and bees' venom. The project began with the establishment of 30 modern hives and training in beekeeping for the 50 members of the Widows Association.

We hope from next year, the Widows' Association members will be able to pay school fees for their children and for the orphans they care for.

We learnt a lot from this experience. We see now that resources, no matter how little they are, if well managed can make a big difference, that it is essential to understand a community's needs and concerns before engaging in a project, and that a country trying to develop itself without community participation, especially that of youth and women, is like a bird trying to fly without wings."

## Tackling Disadvantage in Nigeria

### ORGANISATION:

S-A-S (Save-A-Soul)

### BACKGROUND:

S-A-S was established in September 2007 with the aim of making poverty history in Nigeria and eventually across the world. It is a youth-led community development project organised by the GKC Foundation based in Ipaja, Lagos State, Nigeria.

### PROJECT:

S-A-S empowers young people by sponsoring the education of those who cannot afford it and providing equipment for youths with disabilities. The project was established by co-ordinator, Olowoyeye Oluwatosin Anu, and it is now run by a committed team of six young people aged between 18-33 years.

Olowoyeye Oluwatosin Anu talks about the work of S-A-S;

"Our projects always revolve round reaching out to disadvantaged children and youths in the community. In the past, we have sponsored youths in pursuit of education, donated mobility aid appliances to physically challenged youths, visited neighbouring secondary schools and conducted motivational talk's on MDGs.

Recently, we reached out to children and youths with hearing impairments - we donated items such as stationary, school bags and youth magazines to the school. We conducted vocational training sessions with them, and had a good time learning Sign Language. We even shared jollof rice and coca-cola with them!"

<http://profiles.takingitglobal.org/olowotee>  
[www.gkcfoundation.blogspot.com](http://www.gkcfoundation.blogspot.com)



S-A-S volunteers donating supplies to school children





## Working for a Better Future with the People of Tajikistan

### ORGANISATION:

Operation Mercy Tajikistan with Engineers Without Borders UK

### BACKGROUND:

Sarah Ong, a manufacturing engineering graduate from the University of Cambridge, wanted to work in central Asia so she could use her skills where they would make a big difference as the region has little industry of its own. Through this, she hoped to contribute towards achieving MDG 1, attempting to eradicate global poverty.

### PROJECT:

Sarah spent the spring after she graduated in the mountainous terrain of Tajikistan working on an income generation project for locals from yak down (fine hair). The project, entitled Yak Yak, aims to utilize yak down to generate income as it is currently thrown away by most of the locals. Sarah now plans to go back for another two years.

Sarah talks about her experience of the project;

**“**Working with the partner organization Operation Mercy Tajikistan, which identified the potential for generating employment from yak down, I raised the money for this project through joint funding by an Engineers Without Borders – UK (EWB-UK) bursary, from the Royal Academy of Engineering and from friends and family.

Operation Mercy Tajikistan carried out a needs assessment of the area a year ago and found that employment was the biggest concern for the region.



A local from Tajikistan where Sarah carried out the Yak Yak project

While there is currently little industry in the region, one resource that is commonly available is yak down, however it was found that many people ended up throwing the yak down away. Together with the Operation Mercy team in the Pamirs, I considered how best to use the yak down. The fineness of the yak fibre lends itself to knitwear.

The exact product to be produced from the down is yet to be finalised. Currently it is in the pre-production stage. So far, I have been involved in observing existing harvesting methods, trialling hand ‘tufting’ of the down, collecting samples of current spinning, getting down samples spun, and then knitting up this yarn into hats and scarves to see what kind of fabric is produced.



A local lady from Tajikistan working with Yak down

In the next two years, my aim will be to really make it work, that is, to test the reliability of production and to identify partner organizations for export of finished goods. Once the quality and reliability of the project is established, I hope that Yak Yak will be in a position to partner with overseas retailers. I also plan to learn East Persian once I am back in the country to overcome the language barrier.

Apart from the excitement of taking on the challenge of generating employment in one of the poorest countries of Central Asia, what has been particularly fulfilling for me is the experience of living with Pamiri people. It is a beautiful country and it was wonderful to be able to apply university knowledge somewhere so completely different.

My stay there has changed my perspective on life. From these people, I have learnt the difference between a luxury and necessity. I also believe that the West can learn a lot from them because eventually we are all going to face a resource crunch. They know how to live with less resources, and not out of choice but because they are forced to.”

EWB-UK Bursaries Programme Co-ordinator Lindsay Todman talks about funding Sarah Ong’s project:

**“**The EWB-UK Bursaries Programme provides funding for students and recent graduates to enable them to organise and undertake self-initiated development projects and field research or to take part in development related learning opportunities. The applications are assessed by student review panels with the support of professionals who allocate the available funding to the projects that best meet with the mission of EWB – UK - to facilitate human development through engineering.

Sarah’s project stood out in the application process because of the detailed plan and the clear aims of the project. The project offered a good learning experience for her and had the potential to impact the wool and fibre industry in Tajikistan significantly.”

EWB-UK Bursaries Programme: <http://www.ewb-uk.org/programmes/bursaries>

For more information on Tajikistan, visit its wiki page at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tajikistan>



Yaks from the mountains of Tajikistan





## Empowering Communities to find Shelter in Latin America

### ORGANISATION:

Un Techo Para mi País – IADB  
(Inter-American Development Bank)

### BACKGROUND:

More than 208 million people in Latin America live in extreme poverty – in slums or 'favelas' – without proper houses, water or sanitation. Un Techo Para mi País aimed to tackle this problem by working with communities.

### PROJECT:

Founded in 1997 by a group of Chilean university students, Un Techo Para mi País (Roof for My Country) aims to, "Change the face of Latin America - a continent riddled with inequality - and work with the poorest families to construct emergency houses and then develop integrated programmes of social development in areas such as education, micro-credit, job training and community development."

Now working in Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Mexico, Peru, El Salvador, Colombia and Brazil, Un Techo Para mi País has built over 24,000 basic housing units and recruited more than 18,000 volunteers. They target slum areas and go through a whole process of community engagement and sensitization before a single brick is laid to ensure that each community feels



Volunteers on Un Techo Para mi País project in Guarulhos/Sao Paulo

ownership of the housing project. Also, each family has to contribute 10% of the costs of building their home. During construction, the students develop residents' skills in such trades such as plumbing, electricity, food services and business administration.



Children from Guarulhos/Sao Paulo where Un Techo Para mi País worked

Christina Carasco, IADB officer in charge of the finance for the project, emphasises the fact that the project stands on its own merits and not just as a youth-led initiative;

"What interests us is not that it is youth-run or driven by youthful idealism: we fund this because it is an excellent model of a development intervention. It works and can be replicated throughout our region. That's why we support it."

[www.untechoparamipais.org](http://www.untechoparamipais.org)



## Planting for Prosperity in India

### ORGANISATION:

BADI

### BACKGROUND:

BADI, a small youth-led organisation in Orissa, India, was established because young people were tired of waiting around for governments to improve the food security situation for the poor of rural areas. So, they started a farming initiative aimed at achieving the 1st and 7th MDGs themselves.

### PROJECT:

Seven local youth from BADI planted various crops on very small pieces of unused land located near their village. They planted mango trees and cashew trees to provide long term income prospects for the land owners, as well as vegetables and medicinal plants to provide immediate relief and food security.

Rakesh, one of the members of BADI, speaks about their work:

"In the beginning, when we all came together, the elders of the community discouraged us, saying that we wouldn't be able to do it. We showed them that it was possible to do it. Now they realise that young people can do something. When we speak now, they listen to us."

BADI has expanded their work in helping poor Indian families to other parts of the country and they are training 12 more young people in the techniques which they use to create environmental sustainability, food security, and economic opportunities.

## Emerging Humanity in Kenya

### ORGANISATION:

Emerging Humanity

### BACKGROUND:

Emerging Humanity was founded in 2005 by delegates to the 3rd World Youth Congress in Scotland with the aim of achieving the 1st, 2nd and 7th MDGs. The founding desire of the organisation is to create compassionate action on a global scale through primary school renovations, youth-employment initiatives, and environmental regeneration projects.

### PROJECT:

The Emerging Humanity team is dedicated to youth-led humanitarian work. They are based in Kisumu, Kenya where they work with primary schools with a combined enrolment of 8,000 students. Before implementing projects, they partner with parents and teachers from each school to establish the needs and priorities of the children and secure community contributions and participations.



Children of Kisumu

President and co-founder of Emerging Humanity, Bart Abbott, talks about the details of their projects;

"We implement projects such as improving nursery room classrooms with painting, curriculum based murals, toys, learning materials, structural repairs, desks and chairs, playground installations, water and sanitation facility installations and school forests and gardens. So far, we have planted thousands of trees on school campuses in Kisumu.



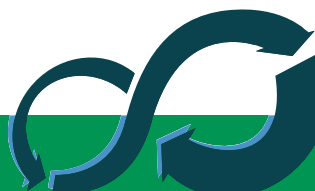
Tim Hart, Bart Abbott, co-founder of Emerging Humanity with volunteers and children from Kisumu

The trees lower the temperature inside the classrooms and provide a canopy for vegetable gardens. Each partner school starts an environmental club and the trees are watered and cared for by the students of the club. Last year Emerge helped 8,000 children and this year they have set a goal to help 20,000 more."

[www.emerginghumanity.org](http://www.emerginghumanity.org)



A child from Kisumu where Emerging Humanity works





## Children Freeing Children around the World

### ORGANISATION:

Free the Children

### BACKGROUND:

Free the Children (FTC) was founded by Craig Kielburger when he was just 12-years old. Craig was moved by the injustice revealed by the Iqbal Masih story. Iqbal was a former child labourer who became an important human rights campaigner and many believe he was murdered because he spoke out. FTC is now the largest network of children helping children in the world, with more than one million youth involved in 45 countries, it is both funded and driven by children and youth.

### PROJECT:

FTC runs four programmes:

1. School building: FTC has built 450 primary schools in 16 developing countries, attended by more than 40,000 children every day - 50% of whom are girls who would otherwise be working as marginalised child labourers.
2. Alternative Income: because in poor areas many parents have no choice but to send their children out to work to avoid starvation, FTC implements alternative income projects that, to date, have benefited more than 22,500 people. Alternative Income projects include sustainable agricultural initiatives and support for women's cooperatives.
3. Health Care, Water and Sanitation: this programme puts health kits, clinics, wells, and other critical pieces into place so that children get proper care and maintain their health. To date FTC has shipped more than \$11m dollars worth of medical supplies.
4. Peacebuilding: FTC works with the United Nations Special Representatives for Children and Armed Conflict on a series of campaigns - 'Schools for Peace', 'War is Not A Game', 'Peace Education Tour' - to raise awareness and help war-affected children.



Some of the children that FTC work with

Founder, Craig Kielburger, talks about the importance of the organisation as a youth-led entity;

"Youth are the heart and soul of this organization. We do have retired teachers, an amazing accountant and some generous adult volunteers, but the reason our organization is helping millions of children around the world is because of the dedication of young people here in North America."

[www.freethechildren.org](http://www.freethechildren.org)



Craig Kielburger and friend

## Skill-Building to Defeat Poverty in Brazil

### ORGANISATION:

Centre of Social Responsibility and Sustainability of The Junior Enterprise

### BACKGROUND:

The Centre of Social Responsibility and Sustainability in Brazil was established when Paulo Ricardo Farine Milani from Londrina State University was inspired by the work of Brazilian youth activist Joao Felipe Scarpelini. Paulo read a report about Joao's work in Brazil with Peace Child International. Paulo says; "I was pleased to hear about so many young people making the difference, and then I asked myself: 'What am I doing to be the change?'"

### PROJECT:

The Centre of Social Responsibility and Sustainability emerged from The Junior Enterprise, a small non-profit organization of the Londrina State University in Brazil. The centre engages young entrepreneurs with socially progressive initiatives. It works with young people from poor communities to help them with the following:

- understanding the dynamics of the labour market.
- using media and research to seek information relevant to planning of their careers.
- learning the skills necessary to pursue an occupation that generates income.
- establishing a professional development project.



Junior enterprise team in the MON Museum Curitiba in the Congress about MDG and Sustainability



Junior enterprise team in Londrina state university 2008

- assuming responsibilities both at home in their communities.
- confronting the problems affecting the country, the planet and the whole world.
- reflecting critically on their own performance and aspirations.

Paulo Ricardo Farine Milani describes how he got involved in the project;

"In my case, the first step was to believe that I was able to be the change. I read an interview with the young Joao Felipe Scarpelini in a local newspaper. I was delighted with his passion for his work. I became more inspired and I started to research what other young people were doing around the world. From that moment I started to believe that I was also able to start social work in my community.

We created a centre in order to encourage young people to take action for social transformation through entrepreneurial activities."



Stand up and speak out in Londrina State University





# Education

## Using Art to Educate in Egypt

### ORGANISATION:

Oyoon Art Group

### BACKGROUND:

Oyoon Art Group, based in Minia, Egypt was established by four young people aged between 18 and 22 in order to teach people how to express themselves artistically. They believe that art is a form of expression that allows you to think about your community and improve it.



Volunteers with Oyoon Art Project

### PROJECT:

Oyoon Art Group want to encourage people to see the world with different 'oyoon' or eyes. They do this through the use of various mediums of artistic expression such as film making, animation, photography, shadow puppets and plastic art. Both children and adults are trained in artistic endeavors to



A local boy painting with the Oyoon Art Project



A local girl painting with Oyoon Art Project

acquire skills and tools for expressing their creativity and their feelings. This project aims at contributing to the attainment of two of the MDG's, namely that of Achieving Universal Primary Education for all and creating a Global Partnership for Development.

One member of the group, Roujieh Emoust Fathy, says of their progress;

"Initially, we started working together as a small group of four friends and now there are nine of us that are working together doing training and art activities. We founded our group to have a frame to go through society and work with our community using art."

oyoonartgroup@hotmail.com



Oyoon Art Group photography project

## Educating through Times of Conflict in Afghanistan

### ORGANISATION:

Balwa Science Academy

### BACKGROUND:

The Balwa Science Academy was established in 1997 in response to the vast number of illiterate young people in Afghanistan, as well as the lack of jobs and activities to engage young people in a country torn apart by conflict.



Students at the Balwa Science Academy in Afghanistan

### PROJECT:

The academy was established in 1997 by a group of young volunteers to provide knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer collaboration between the young people of the troubled city of Pol-e-Khumri in the Northern province of Bhaglan.



Students at the Balwa Science Academy in Afghanistan

The project survived throughout Taliban rule despite efforts to close it. Those involved held on to the hope that providing literacy, science, computers and language classes could make a real difference to members of the community. These skills have led young people into successful jobs, steering them away from unemployment, crime and drug use.

Sayed Faheem Egbali talks about the importance of the academy in Afghan society;

"During the hardest period of Taliban rule over Afghanistan we had a very tough time trying to keep up the academy. However, we were able to get those volunteers who were educated through the academy to work for the academy. We could teach all sorts of computer and Information Technology programmes which enabled a large number of youths to



Afghan students learning at the Balwa Science Academy in Pol-e-Khumri in the Northern province of Bhaglan

find employment with big names like the United Nations, the Red Cross, and various other national and international NGOs. Together, we are building educated families, educated societies and countries."



Group learning at the Balwa Science Academy in Afghanistan





## Campaigning against Child Labour from the USA

### ORGANISATION:

School for Iqbal, Broad Meadows Middle School students

### BACKGROUND:

When former child labourer Iqbal Masih of Pakistan visited the Broad Meadows Middle School in 1997 on his way to pick up his Reebok Human Rights Award, he so moved a group of young students that they decided to get involved in his campaign. They raised \$140,000 and succeeded in having a school built in Iqbal's name. Sadly, this school now stands as a memorial for Iqbal as he was later murdered. It is thought by many that his murder was a result of his human rights activity.

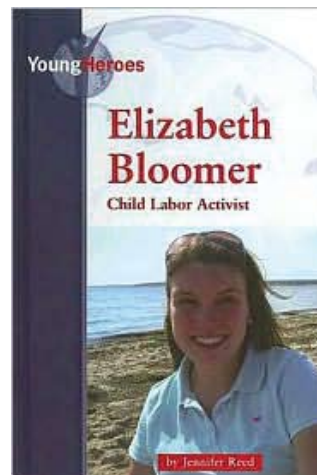
### PROJECT:

One of the leading campaigners from Broad Meadows Middle School was Elizabeth Bloomer, who was 12 at the time she heard Iqbal speak. She went on to speak at a U.S. Congressional Hearing on Child Labour and was a keynote speaker at the United Nations General Assembly. With her classmate Amanda Loos, she wrote, directed and hosted a two part, two hour TV mini-series, 'The Global Sweatshop'. Now 20, Elizabeth has developed a campaign that attacks poverty called 'Operation Day's Work-USA', which is designed to help the children of one developing country each year.

Elizabeth Bloomer speaks about the real impact that she believes young people can have;

**"I've realized the power kids have to make a difference, and that encourages me. I thought it was horrible that someone would shoot a little boy, probably for standing up for what's right. We're his voice now. A bullet can't kill a dream."**

[www.stopchildlabor.org/teensandstudents/iqbal.htm](http://www.stopchildlabor.org/teensandstudents/iqbal.htm)



Elizabeth Bloomer

## Peer Education Tackling Disadvantage in Austria

### ORGANISATION:

Youth4youth with AIS-Jugendservice

### BACKGROUND:

youth4youth and AIS-Jugendservice aim to mobilise disadvantaged young people. They want them to, 'come out of the dark to help others that still remain in dark places'.

### PROJECT:

This youth4youth project began in early 2008 with the help of AIS-Jugendservice. The programme mobilises disadvantaged youth through informal peer education and deals with substance abuse, teen pregnancy and poverty. The facilitators have overcome these challenges in their own lives. The key to the project lies with intergenerational partnerships to increase the platform for youth4youth peer education.

One young volunteer speaks of her experience in the programme;

**"T**he main difference to adult workshops is that those workshops are led by young people who have experience in that field and have succeeded in overcoming their issues in a positive way. I realised that young people listen more carefully to other young people who have been in the same situation that they are now in at the moment. I want to share my experiences because I have been one of these disadvantaged young people but I found a way to live and to overcome my situation."

[www.ais-jugendservice.at](http://www.ais-jugendservice.at)

## Blossoming Youth Centre in Brazil

### ORGANISATION:

The Contato (Youth Reference Centre)

### BACKGROUND:

Youth activist Daniel Perini Frizzera da Mota Santos from Brazil was one of the founders of youth association, The Contato (Youth Reference Centre), in the city of Belo Horizonte, because he wanted to tackle the issues facing young Brazilians such as unemployment.

### PROJECT:

The Contato (Youth Reference Centre) has implemented several youth led projects to promote the development of Brazilian youth focusing on political participation, culture, cooperatives implementation and information technologies. The first steps of the association were to develop more discussion about youth and to construct various partnerships. They hosted a youth policies seminar and from this, they decided to develop projects focusing on combating unemployment, as well as digital and cultural exclusion.



A youth creating pottery at The Contato

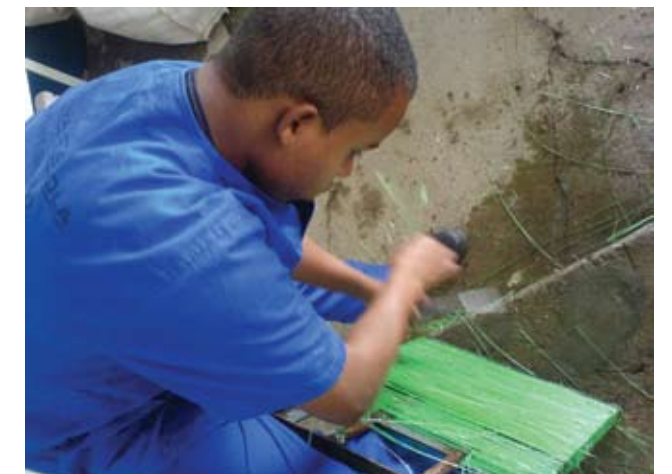


Local youths involved with The Contato

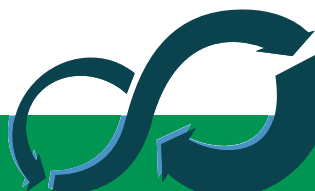
Founder, Daniel Daniel Perini Frizzera da Mota Santos talks about the job creation programmes of The Contato;

**"O**ur first project started in May 2004. The idea was to create job opportunities for the youth inhabitants of the Aglomerado da Serra. At that time, we heard about a new movement in the Brazilian work market: cooperativism. Over the years, we have developed different ways of targeting and empowering youth and encouraging self-sustainability. One of our most effective projects is the Serra Cooperative of Youngsters. This group of young boys and girls is organized into three different sections: art of ceramics (hand made pottery), digital station of the Aglomerado da Serra (digital inclusion) and Serra's sweepers (ecological sweepers factory). All of these initiatives are managed by the productive groups themselves and have their own clients.

For me, when discussing youth development, the most important thing to consider is that there is a large spectrum of actors, particularly youth, and themes to reflect on. My experience has shown, at least to me, that the job has just begun."



Glass work at The Contato





## Addressing Child Labour through Education in Pakistan

### ORGANISATION:

Tauseef Memorial School, Pakistan

### BACKGROUND:

The Tauseef Memorial School, was founded in memory of Mr. Tauseef Ahmed, who dreamt of taking the privilege of education to every child's doorstep. Unfortunately, he passed away before he could see his vision realised.

### PROJECT:

Pakistan has a literacy rate of only 54% and there are 30 million young people in the 5-18 age group involved in child labour, according to Project Manager, Samia Munawar. This situation is particularly evident in the slums of Karachi. The Tauseef Memorial School, a charity-based primary school, was founded to offer children independence through education thus protecting them from the dangers of child labour.



Samia Munawar with the principle people working on the Project; Sabiehul-Hasan, Noor Ali, Rehan Sain, Shehzeel Hayat, Mohsin Siddique, Taj Hyder, Munawwar Saeed and children. It was taken in March 2008 at the Project centre. Photo credit: Mr. Raheel Ahmad Khan

Project Manager, Samia Munawar, aged 23, talks about her experience of the project;

"The area that our project focused on was a slum area in Karachi, where the majority of children were either involved in child labour or attended only Madarasas.

We initially visited several homes to convince parents of the need for the quality and modern education for their children. On the very first day of the school in August 2007, we gathered 27 children, and began with basic primary education as well as self-esteem and confidence building sessions.

There are 20 people involved in the project and we continue to educate the children as well as counselling their parents. The project is particularly special because it is a self-funded initiative by the dynamic and passionate youth of Pakistan. Not only have we educated children but we have the chance to be educated by them. The innocent, unaware but smart children taught us to be patient, tactful and be creative in our teaching. They also taught us that they are the same as we are, they just need extra care and attention; they need our support and love and they need to be treated equally. They see the injustice of their situation, they ask me why it is like this and I see their pain.

In order to support youth-led development, I believe that governments and international agencies should also join hands to support education programmes addressing solutions to the issue of child labour. After all, as the famous saying goes:

*If you are looking for days make an army;*

*If you are looking for months make an economy;*

*And If you are looking for milleniums, educate people!"*



The project centre and banner. Photo credit: Mr.Sabieh-ul-Hasan

## Educating Street Children in Sierra Leone

### ORGANISATION:

Concern for Children and Youth Organisation, Sierra Leone

### BACKGROUND:

George Reginald Freeman was inspired to found the Concern for Children and Youth Organisation because he was forced to live on the streets as a child. The organisation aims to advocate for and defend the human rights of the street children who are neglected in our society by giving them access to education.

### PROJECT:

The aim of the project is to advocate for street children to access primary education. The numbers of children who are forced to live on the streets in Sierra Leone are rapidly rising, leading to high rates of illiteracy and therefore reinforcing the cycle of poverty. Twenty volunteers with Concern for Children and Youth Organisation in Freetown were involved in the implementation of the project.



George Reginald Freeman and Abdul Kalokohn from 'Concern for Children and Youth' organisation, Sierra Leone with street children, Mabinty Bangura, John Kamara, Ishmael Jalloh, Brahim Sesay, Mohammad Kamara, Alusine Kargbo and Bankole Bangura. The picture was taken at Kroo Bay Community, Freetown, Sierra Leone in October 2007. Photo credit: Jillian Lewis

Director and Project Manager with Concern for Children and Youth Organisation, George Reginald Freeman, talks about his experience of leading the project.

"I know what it is like to live as a street child, because I have lived that life. I was abused, neglected and dejected.

The inhumane and degrading treatment I experienced in my life made me determined never to let this background affect my future. My vision was to help other street children like myself to become better individuals in society.

A lot of children living in the street are exposed to violence and exploitation and they have no access to education to improve their situation. The project, which began in October 2007, was funded by Peace Child International, Be the Change Programme and Concern for Children and Youth Organisation, Sierra Leone Membership Subscription. It involved two key steps; awareness-raising and lobbying the government to provide access to education for the street children, and practical help for the children such as providing food and clothing.

Through co-ordinating this project, I have learnt that street children are severely traumatised and they need love and security in order to develop healthily. Street children also need education. This will in turn benefit their communities and help in nation building.

In my future work, I would like to provide more scholarships, shelter, food, clothing, medication and other basic necessities so that street children can live a healthy and meaningful life in Sierra Leone."

inforicarnald@yahoo.com

### The Cry of the African Child

When I complain, nobody listens  
When I am right, nobody knows  
When I am wrong, everybody talks about it

Do not forget! I am a child  
Please! Please! Don't,  
I am a child, I am myself

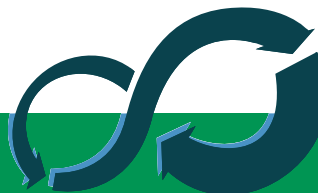
Don't call me stupid, I will consider myself a failure  
Don't put your own prejudice into my life  
Help me to make my own judgement

Don't let me have my own way always,  
I will grow up to be selfish  
Don't strike me in anger, I will grow up to be selfish

Don't set up expectations for me that I cannot achieve  
I can easily give up  
Don't ignore me I need your attention and encouragement  
Don't forget I learn by imitation, you are my model

Don't do everything for me, I need to be responsible  
Above all, don't forget! I am a child, let me be a child.

By George Reginald Freeman





## Activating Youth Citizenship in Argentina

### ORGANISATION:

Organización Argentina de Jóvenes para las Naciones Unidas (OAJNU)

### BACKGROUND:

Childhood Citizenship is an education programme developed by Organización Argentina de Jóvenes para las Naciones Unidas (OAJNU) for young people between 12 and 17 years old.

It was established to teach young people about their rights and how to exercise them and to promote active participation in society through concrete actions.

### PROJECT:

Childhood Citizenship was developed to encourage Argentinian youth to get involved in decision-making processes in society. According to project founders, Argentine youth do not see themselves as important actors in society, because they don't have enough tools, knowledge and experience to develop skills to be committed citizens.



Participants in the Childhood Citizenship Education Programme developed by OAJNU displaying their projects at the final fair



Volunteers with OAJNU

Project Manager and co-ordinator of Ciudadania de la Infancia en Cordoba, Verónica Cecilia Mazzucchelli, aged 24, talks about her experience of the project:

**“W**e have implemented this project every year since 2002 and we now have over 100 volunteers and 4,500 young participants. We visit schools in Córdoba, Salta, Mendoza, Buenos Aires and Jujuy where we run workshops on human rights, the rights of the child, participation in social projects and community action.

Following the workshops, the students are guided in the process of identification of needs and planning and finally the execution of a community project in which the participants play the leading roles. After the projects are complete, we hold a closing fair during which the participants show and explain how they implemented their projects and the results they achieved.

We believe that through actually planning and implementing projects - effective and concrete actions - the participants in our programme acquire tools to become more committed citizens. This experience is a real opportunity to exercise their rights and duties.”

[www.oajnu.org](http://www.oajnu.org)

## Providing 'Windows of Hope' in Ghana

### ORGANISATION:

Young Peace Brigades

### BACKGROUND:

Window of Hope was established in the Upper Denkyira District of Ghana, to help inhabitants in the surrounding areas to meet their basic needs.

### PROJECT:

Through collaborative construction of schools, health centres and skills centres for girls, Window of Hope delivers capacity building for sustainable development. The project now also includes a new dimension entitled, 'Field of Dreams for Rural Youth'.

Rashid Zuberu of the Young Peace Brigades reports that Window of Hope happily run a school, a library and training centre catering for 800 people. Rashid also describes the new Window of Hope programme, entitled 'Field of Dreams';

**“T**he Young Peace Brigades were inspired by UNESCO's programme 'Hope and Solidarity through Ball Games', and so we decided to launch our own version of the programme dubbed 'Field of Dreams for Rural Youth'.



A school group working with the Young Peace Brigades

Through this programme, we are mobilizing sports personalities to help rural children in reintegrating into formal education in the Upper District of the central region of Ghana Dunkwa-On-Offin.

This initiative aims at using team sports to enable marginalised rural children in developing countries to learn some basic socialisation rules that can allow them to find a path towards education and thus reintegrate into society. Field of Dreams gives rural children a chance to interact with sports personalities and to receive gifts such as footballs and t-shirts.

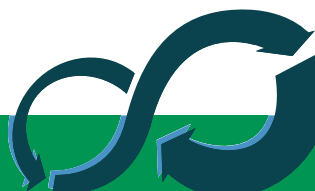
Sports activities, especially football tournaments, will be organised in order to facilitate interaction between girls and boys, between children inside and outside the school system and children of different communities and neighborhoods. Over 100 youths and children are benefiting from the project.”



A young girl from Ghana on a Peace Brigades project

[info@youngpeacebrigades.org](mailto:info@youngpeacebrigades.org)

[www.youngpeacebrigades.org](http://www.youngpeacebrigades.org)





## Eco-Educating in Mexico!

### ORGANISATION:

Project Ixchel, a project of Ashoka/Youth Venture

### BACKGROUND:

Liliana Rodríguez Martínez, from Mexico City, got involved in the student movement at 16. Four years later, her mother got cancer and she faced serious economic problems. So she formed with some friends an eco/training scheme called 'Project Ixchel' to deal with the deficiencies of the education system in her neighbourhood.

### PROJECT:

The project headquarters are based in an urban greenhouse, built on the roof of a house in the north of Mexico City! The project team teaches agro-urban techniques of vegetable



Liliana Rodríguez Martínez, Project Manager of 'Project Ixchel'

production for self-consumption, like hydroponics and organoponics. They also teach English and IT, and educate students on sexuality issues and first aid.

Project Ixchel reports concrete results from their work in the community. They have succeeded in generating food alternatives for vulnerable people in Mexico City, creating self-help aid networks through urban vegetable gardens, and promoting fair trade and solidarity. The team members are also keen to pass the message on; the model can be replicated and two organizations have trained more than 200 youngsters, who now grow 50% of their own vegetables.

Liliana, Project Manager of 'Project Ixchel' says;

**"I** took the best decision: to challenge then change my reality."

[www.ashoka.org](http://www.ashoka.org)

## Gender

### Offering a Positive Network for Women in India

#### ORGANISATION:

Positive Women's Network (PWN), supported by Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP)

#### BACKGROUND:

The Positive Women's Network in India is a youth-led organisation which was founded with the support of one of the Commonwealth Youth Programmes's (CYP) most successful initiatives, the Young Ambassadors for Positive Living which focuses on the HIV-AIDS pandemic.

The CYP is one of the largest and oldest international youth programmes in the world. The overall goal of the organisation is to empower young people (aged 15-29), and it is now active in 54 member countries. CYP runs a variety of programmes including the Youth Caucus, the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative, the Youth Meetings at Commonwealth Heads of State meetings.

#### PROJECT:

With the support of the CYP's Young Ambassadors for Positive Living programme, Kousalya Periasamy, was empowered to found the extraordinary Positive Women's Network in India.

Here, Kousalya Periasamy, talks about why she was inspired to found the Positive Women's Network and the crucial role it plays for Indian women;

**"A**t the age of 20, I was forced to marry my cousin because my father wanted the ancestral property to remain within the family. Unknown to me, my husband was HIV positive. 75 days after the marriage, I was diagnosed HIV positive. Seven months after our wedding day my husband died. Denounced by my husband's family, deemed untouchable and facing discrimination at every turn, my status in society was the lowest it could be and I could only wait for death. But I was not prepared to go quietly. When my husband's family tried to rob me of my property rights I took them to court, knowing that my HIV status would become public knowledge. I became one of the first women to talk openly about my HIV status in the Indian media. This gave me a reason for living and a new purpose in life.

I founded the Positive Women's Network as hundreds of thousands of Indian women continue to suffer the same fate as me: twice as many young Indian women than men are living with HIV. 80% of women who are HIV positive were infected by their husbands. Millions of Indian women have little or no control over their own lives. Major life decisions, from who to marry to when to have sex, are controlled by their husbands, fathers and brothers. They are expected to remain 'pure' until marriage yet when HIV arrives in the marital bed it is we, the women, who are blamed, doubly condemned if we pass the virus to a boy child.

The Positive Women's Network works to end the discrimination faced by HIV positive women. At Positive Women's Network, we see ignorance and harmful attitudes, rather than the HIV virus, as our greatest enemy. There is a critical lack of knowledge among women about the virus. The Positive Women's Network gives them access to unbiased information and female-friendly health systems so they can protect themselves and live healthy and productive lives."



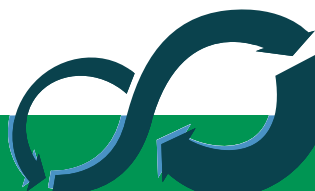
Kousalya Periasamy, founder of Positive Women's Network

[www.thecommonwealth.org/subhomepage/152816/](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/subhomepage/152816/)

<http://pwn.bc.ca/>

[poswonet@hotmail.com](mailto:poswonet@hotmail.com),

[poswonet@pwnplus.org](mailto:poswonet@pwnplus.org)





## Giving Girls another Vision of the Future in Niger

### ORGANISATION:

Giving Girls Another Vision of the Future

### BACKGROUND:

Djamila Ousmane Tinaou from Niger undertook this project because she wanted to empower young women. She says, "Women comprise over half the population but they do not enjoy basic rights such as participating in decision-making processes. I think that this is mainly due to the very low literacy rate and a high poverty level among young women. This could change if women were financially independent."

### PROJECT:

The project was aimed at young girls who migrate from their villages to the capital of Niger, Niamey. Once in the city, they are very often compelled to beg for survival.



Djamila Ousmane Tinaou / © Ben Powless

The project aimed to teach them sewing and help them achieve some basic education in order to give them economic freedom. Seven girls and their families benefitted from the project and at the end of the project, they were encouraged to return to their villages with their new-found skills.



Karima, a participant in the project, sewing a 'Mariniere' under the guidance of Fatchima, her sewing teacher

Djamila, aged 26, talks about her experience of leading this project along with seven other young volunteers;

"We obtained the money for this project through funding from Peace Child International through the 'Be the Change' programme and kind donations. I think that through this project, the girls learnt skills that enable them to earn a decent living and now they see the future differently. With the training they received they cannot only sustain themselves but also increase their family's income. In addition, they are passing on their training to other young people. Also, they understand that they are valuable assets to their community and that it is their right to have a say.

I learnt lots of things from doing this project. Firstly, I learnt that the most difficult thing was not getting the money as I believed, but actually executing it and above all gaining the commitment of the beneficiaries. It was difficult to keep the young women motivated because they were looking for was immediate, short-term benefits and what the project offered was more long-term benefits. Our project is ongoing and we have now established a partnership with sewing workshops where the trained girls are placed to practice what they have learnt, improve their skills, and earn a living."

[http://oiyp.oxfam.org/oiyp/template\\_04\\_individual.aspx?id=1770](http://oiyp.oxfam.org/oiyp/template_04_individual.aspx?id=1770)

## Improving Maternal Health from the Grassroots in Kenya

### ORGANISATION:

Grassroots Empowerment Initiative - GEMINI

### BACKGROUND:

Stella Amojong, Executive Director of Grassroots Empowerment Initiative (GEMINI) talks about what inspires her work, "Every time I'm asked about what drives me, I can only think of one word: Passion. I get full satisfaction in seeing previously marginalised communities demanding their rights. I feel at peace when a high-risk expectant teenager seeks ante-natal services without being prompted; when she knows the value of nutrition for her child."

### PROJECT:

Stella elaborates on the details of her project;

"It all started when I was about 13 years. I had to learn the hard way that sexuality and reproductive health issues are handled with trepidation in African society. The fact that I could not access information about my changing body either from my teachers or relatives made me wonder. And when I acquired adequate information from one of my aunts (who is a nurse) I started sharing it with my classmates, giving them basic facts about pregnancy, menstrual cycles, the so-called 'taboo' subjects.



A young participant from one of GEMINI's projects with her son

In 2002, I launched the Advocates for Teen Mothers (now called Grassroots Empowerment Initiative - GEMINI), an organisation that seeks to reach out to marginalised and high-risk girls and young women in urban slums and rural villages. At that time, surveys estimated 10,000 adolescent girls were being expelled from school after getting pregnant, while another 400 were giving birth daily. An unknown number were seeking illegitimate abortions, with health statistics indicating

that about 7,000 women were dying in the process every year.

The programme aims to seal this gap between information and services by engaging adolescent girls and young women with skills, resources and networks that would enable them to make informed decisions about their reproductive health rights. Another strategy was to rehabilitate child mothers, equip them with life-skills and eventually integrate them back into the educational system. We have also been



Stella Amojong, Executive Director of Grassroots Empowerment Initiative (GEMINI)

advocating for improved healthcare and the recognition of qualified midwives in rural areas to provide emergency services to expectant women who have little access to maternal healthcare.

Over the years, GEMINI has also integrated HIV/Aids information into our reproductive health activities and

we are indeed the only organization in the district currently providing vulnerable young people/communities with mobile VCT.

Most of these are found in urban slums and rural areas. Over 60% of our target groups are women, including those earning less than \$1 a day, school-drop outs, child-mothers, and those working in high-risk informal sectors and single mothers. Currently, we reach an estimated 14,000 young people in the densely populated Uasin Gishu district.

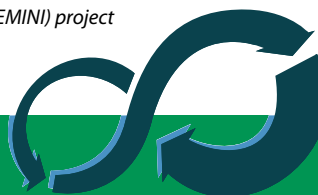
Through youth-centered activities, we have been able to increase young people's levels of empowerment. They are more informed, more empowered and in a position to seek maternal health information and services.

We are also beginning to interact with community gatekeepers including local leaders, parents and teachers. The aim is to promote an environment of healthy exploration, where young people are given more opportunities to interact with empowerment programmes, connect with adults through dialogue and generally face sexuality issues with an open mind."



Young ladies working on a Grassroots Empowerment Initiative (GEMINI) project

[www.globalgiving.com](http://www.globalgiving.com)





## Bringing Equality to Education in Baluchistan

### ORGANISATION:

Baluchistan Girl Child Peer Education Project,  
World Bank/UNICEF

### BACKGROUND:

In rural Baluchistan in Pakistan, cultural traditions prevent young girls from going to school. However, strict fathers do not prevent their daughters from playing together. The Baluchistan Girl Child Peer Education Project aims to educate girls while respecting cultural boundaries.

### PROJECT:

In each village, UNICEF identified one or two young girls who had been educated – either by their parents or in a school in a nearby town – and invited them to become ‘headmistresses’ of a Front Room school. Girls from the village are invited to a play-group run by the educated girls – and are taught basic literacy and numeracy. Fathers learned, of course, what was going on but, because they were not officially in school, they allowed it to continue. For UNICEF, this was a highly effective programme of girl child education, and when they discontinued funding for it, the World Bank stepped in and have continued to finance it.

Here, a World Bank official talks about the project;

“It was incredible to go into a living room and see a 13-year old standing at the front of a ‘class’ of 10-15 young girls, running the lessons like an experienced professional teacher.”



A Baluch girl teaching her peers. Reproduced by permission of UNICEF

## Women Getting Tough in Kenya

### ORGANISATION:

Tough Cookie

### BACKGROUND:

In the Kibera slums of Nairobi, Kenya, Florence Wanjiku developed a youth-led initiative called Tough Cookie in order to help young, single mothers to improve their lives by offering free counselling and training in baking skills.

### PROJECT:

Tough Cookie targets women from Kibera, most of whom are denied access to education because they cannot take care of their children at school, and because they cannot afford the school fees.

Florence talks about the details of the project;

“Participants learn baking skills and undergo counselling sessions at the One Stop Youth Information Centre. The project currently works with a core group of 10 single mothers from the slums.

I was raised by a single mom, I have several single moms as friends - they inspired me to reach out to this group of young, vulnerable and needy group of women who need a lot of guidance and encouragement. I am also now a single mom myself and I have two beautiful children; Jesse aged five and Alison aged 2! Tough Cookie was made with the support of Peace Child International’s Be the Change project, The Made in Kenya Network, Kate Confectionaries and other partners.”

<http://projects.takingitglobal.org/toughcookie>

‘Be the Change’ programme: [www.peacechild.org/btc](http://www.peacechild.org/btc)



Florence Wanjiku

## Supporting Female Entrepreneurs to Succeed in Senegal

### ORGANISATION:

PELLITAL - Student’s organization of Agnam-Goly (AEERAG)

### BACKGROUND:

During a research project on issues facing the community, Adama Diop, met some very dynamic and hardworking female entrepreneurs. However, they were stifled because they couldn’t access credit to start or expand their businesses so Adama decided to find a way to help them through a project called PELLITAL.

### PROJECT:

Agnam-Goly is an ancient village bordering the Sahara desert in Senegal. The majority of inhabitants make a living from herding cattle and farming the banks of the Senegal River. Many of the women of Agnam-Goly supplement their families’ incomes by running their own small enterprises. However, they struggle to get bank credit.

To address the issue PELLITAL, which means ‘commitment’ in Fulani, the language spoken in Agnam-Goly, was created. PELLITAL connects the female entrepreneurs of Agnam-Goly with the users of Facebook. Members of Facebook can loan entrepreneurs funding to enable their businesses to thrive.



Mariatou Sall, traditional hairstylist

Adama Diop, co-founder of Pellital, elaborates on the details of the project:

“As a young activist I felt that it was important to find solutions to issues the women of my village were facing, particularly the female entrepreneurs. I am also passionate about ICT, so I asked myself: why not use ICT to help them to get microloans from Facebook?”



Fama Mbodji, seamstress

Here how it works:

1. We post entrepreneur profiles and loan applications from Agnam-Goly both in English and French as open groups on Facebook.
2. Anyone can join these groups and lend any amount to an entrepreneur of their choice. 100% of the loan is disbursed in local currency to the entrepreneur selected.
3. The entrepreneur repays the loan in four monthly instalments, paying a flat interest fee of 10%. The income from the interest is used only for money transfer fees and operating expenses.
4. During the lending period we keep lenders informed of the impact of their loans by posting updates on each borrower’s group page.
5. Once a loan is fully repaid, the lender can take back 100% of the original amount lent. For the current pilot group of loans, we are assuming responsibility for repayment if the borrower defaults.

By supplementing their families’ income, these women are able to invest in the education and health of their children. I think that the women feel happier and more secure in themselves and less financially dependent on men.”

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=18776711293>  
[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=16317500879](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=16317500879)  
[gangadiop84@yahoo.fr](mailto:gangadiop84@yahoo.fr)



Kadia Diop, fish seller



# Health

## Learning to be Happy and Healthy in Brazil

### ORGANISATION:

AGAPE Project

### BACKGROUND:

The majority of young people who choose to pursue a career in medicine do so because they want to improve the quality of people's lives. And the group of Brazilian students who formed the AGAPE Project was no different. However, they decided to use their skills to improve the health of children in their community before they had even graduated.



AGAPE volunteers with participating children

### PROJECT:

The group of 12 students who formed AGAPE Project knew that they were still developing their knowledge, but they decided not to wait until they were finished with their studies to do something to help in their community. Therefore, these first and second year medical students from the University Lusíada, Santos decided to begin working with a vulnerable group of children who could benefit from the knowledge and skills that they already had. Thus the AGAPE Project – Project of General Pediatric Assistance – was born.

Paula Teixeira and Vanessa Haddad, both founding members of AGAPE, talk about the work and achievements of the group;

**T**he AGAPE Project aims to bring basic health education to 410 young kids from vulnerable backgrounds that avail the



Children with certificates from the AGAPE programme

services of Educandario Santista. The volunteers from AGAPE teach the kids about nutrition, personal hygiene and security through puppetry, story telling, and many other games. The kids are able to learn by playing and in the end, they not only change their own personal hygiene and health habits but they also influence changes in the habits of their family back home.

Today AGAPE has 25 young medical students working in the project. They run annual trainings and workshops to empower other students to engage in the project and replicate it in other areas of the city.

We have learnt that a small initiative like ours can really change the lives of these children and improve their health from an early age. At the beginning, we didn't have clear plans and our commitment to the project came naturally with time but nowadays we are sure that was the right thing to do. Everyday, we are heartened by the smiles of the kids we work with and the satisfaction to know we are doing our part and it's making a big difference."



AGAPE volunteers portraying their message to the children with puppets

## Engineering Safe Milk!

### ORGANISATION:

Project Milk

### BACKGROUND:

Project Milk was founded in order to protect newborn babies against HIV by preventing the transmission of the disease during breastfeeding.

**"O**ur team was formed around our interest in HIV prevention and the societal issues that arise with a problem like this." – Elizabeth Kneen

### PROJECT:

A team of five students and an experienced medical doctor formed Project Milk and devised a method for disinfecting breast milk involving modification of an existing nipple shield in an effort to prevent the transmission of the HIV during breastfeeding.

The Project Milk team participated in a unique month-long workshop at MIT International Development Design Summit.

The team includes: Tombo Banda, a mechanical engineer from Imperial College, now back home in Malawi; Geoff Galgon from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech); Stephen Gerrard, a chemical engineer from Cambridge University; Ryan Hubbard a systems engineer from Olin College of Engineering; Elizabeth Kneen, a mechanical engineer from Olin College of Engineering; and David Sokal, an experienced physician and public health specialist from Family Health International (FHI).

Although preventing HIV transmission during breastfeeding has been widely researched, there is still no effective solution so the team came up with a new approach that requires minimal changes to breastfeeding practices and should be more acceptable to mothers.

Elizabeth Kneen talks about the need for such a project;

**"W**HO estimates that 700,000 children are born each year to HIV-positive mothers, mostly in Africa, and that each year about 50,000 babies acquire HIV through breastfeeding.

WHO recommends, 'when replacement feeding is acceptable, feasible, affordable, sustainable and safe,' mothers should use formula. However, using formula in low-resource settings causes too many deaths from diarrhoea and malnutrition. So most mothers have only one option—breastfeed—and hope their baby doesn't get infected."



The Project Milk Team (from left to right): Stephen Gerrard, David Sokal, Geoff Galgon, Ryan Hubbard, Elizabeth Kneen, Tombo Banda

Stephen Gerrard talks in detail about Project Milk;

**"O**ur approach is to modify an existing nipple shield by adding a non-woven material (similar to felt), and impregnating the material with a common compound that deactivates HIV without harming the baby. This allows the mother to directly feed the baby rather than having to collect and heat the milk. There is a long way to go but it definitely will make a big difference when complete."

This breakthrough requires more research and testing. The team is looking for laboratories to help test the device



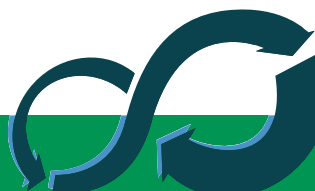
An initial prototype of the Project Milk invention

Project Milk Website: <http://www.justmilk.org>

International Development Design Summit :  
<http://www.idds.org>

For more information on the AIDS/HIV crisis, visit  
<http://www.avert.org/aids.htm> and <http://www.unaids.org/en/>

For more information on the WHO Policy: World Health Organisation. 2001. **"N**ew data on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and their policy implications".





## Inspiring Children through Photography in Kenya

### ORGANISATION:

The Tumaini Children's Project, Kenya

### BACKGROUND:

"We want to give hope and a form of expression to marginalised children in Kenya."

### PROJECT:

Tumaini means 'hope' in Kis-Swahili. The project, which works with ninety children living in an orphanage for HIV/AIDS affected youth, began in 2005. It aims to provide primary education and aids/education.

In 2008, four Canadians under the age of thirty, went to work with the youth for five weeks arranging fun activities such as crafts, games and a photography project entitled, 'Pieces of Innocence'.

Alyssa Bistonath, one of the Canadian volunteers, talks about her experience of the project;

"Development needs communication - it is vital. Using photography to provide the children with a tool to express their emotions was incredibly powerful. Emotional well-being is a huge part of children's health and many kids living in the orphanage have been rejected by their family, their parents have died and they may even be living with HIV/AIDS.

We gave 15 of the kids cameras to take pictures of what makes them happy and sad and things that they see in their day-to-day activities.

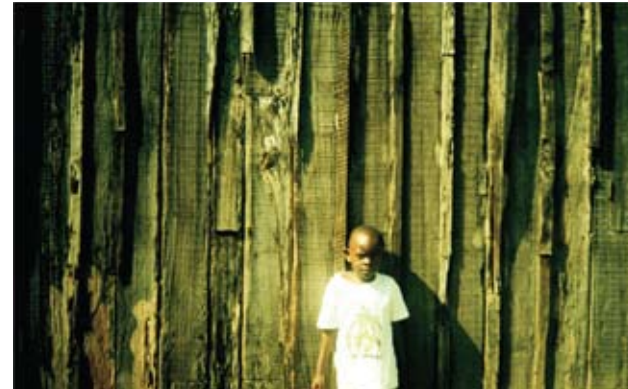


Photo taken by Blaise, aged 12, from Kismu in Kenya. Blaise took part in the 'Pieces of Hope' photography project

Through the project we taught the kids photo composition and how to use pictures to express their feelings. It was a form of art therapy that allowed kids to tell stories without having to speak about them directly.

We asked the children: what does this photo say? what does it mean to you? how did you feel when you took this?' The kids exhibited 32 of their photos to 250 members of the community in Kismu, Kenya. We had local facilitators host a discussion with the community about HIV/AIDS.

We want to tour the photo exhibition that we prepared from the photos the kids took. We plan to use this as an income-generating project to raise money for a new wing and food for the dormitory. Presently there are 90 kids at the orphanage. The founder of the whole programme is only 26 years old."

Pieces of Innocence Photography Project  
www.tumainichildrensproject.ca



© Alyssa Bistonath

Lorine, Christopher, Peter and Blaise, three of the children from Kismu in Kenya who partook in the 'Pieces of Hope' photography project

## Kicking out Malaria through Health Education in Ghana!

### ORGANISATION:

Youth Realities Network (YOUR-NET)

### BACKGROUND:

The project aimed to educate three particular Ghanain communities on basic prevention and care practices on Malaria.

### PROJECT:

Youth Realities Network (YOUR-NET) implemented the health education project in three Ghanain communities of Otopease, Dodowa and Adenta. Project Managers, Cyril Nii Offei France and Ernest Asiedu Odei, both aged 26, talk about their experience of implementing this project;

"Nine young people worked voluntarily on this project between February – May 2008. There are no proper health centres in Otopease - they do not have good drinking water and have no electricity. Malaria has been the number one killer in this village and surrounding towns and this is not only because there is no health post there but also because the people lack basic knowledge of Malaria prevention.

In order to make a wide-spread and lasting impact on the future of Otopease, Adenta, Armrahia etc. we felt that the youths needed to be educated and involved in the prevention process and programmes. Working on this project also revealed to us that government alone cannot totally alleviate ill-health and poverty - it is more of an attitude problem than of lack of wealth. Although a lack of resources is obviously an issue, a change in attitude can contribute largely to the health and wellbeing of the people in the respective communities."



YOUR-NET health education in action

## Raising Public Awareness in China

### ORGANISATION:

Psycho-Behavioral Intervention Group (PBIG) with support from YouthActionNet

### BACKGROUND:

Li Shen, aged 27 from China, is a YouthActionNet Global Fellow who developed an interest in combating HIV/AIDS in China while taking a psychology course at Shenyang University of Technology. Li volunteered to help his professor conduct research into the behaviours of gay men and prostitutes. Through this, he saw the enormous threat posed by HIV/AIDS to these individuals, and the need for greater public awareness.

### PROJECT:

Shen founded PBIG in 2003 to raise awareness of the threat of HIV/AIDS among gay men and prostitutes. Activities of the group include: distributing educational materials such as posters and pamphlets, HIV/AIDS awareness training, weekly educational seminars, peer education training, and free testing for sexually transmitted diseases.

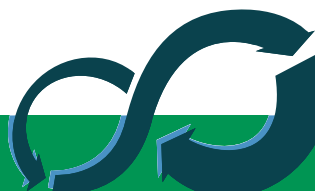
Shen comments on the difficulties faced by homosexuals in China;

"Discrimination against gays is fairly widespread here. People emphasise the family more than ever, and parents want their children to get married and fit in. I think I'm doing some good things, but it's not just me, it's our team."

www.youthactionnet.org



Li Shen





## Peer to Peer Education on HIV/AIDS

### ORGANISATION:

Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA)

### BACKGROUND:

Every day, 6,800 people are infected with HIV. Young people aged 15-24 account for 40 percent of the 2.5 million new infections each year. 11.4 million children and adolescents have been orphaned by AIDS and are now heads of households. World leaders committed that by 2005, 90% of young people would know how to protect themselves from infection: but currently less than 40% of young men and less than 36% of young women can correctly identify how to prevent HIV.

### PROJECT:

GYCA brings together young leaders who are taking action in their communities to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and to address the devastating consequences of the pandemic. In fact, evidence shows that young people are most effective at changing the risk behaviours of their peers and at shaping a better future for themselves and their families. GYCA empowers young leaders with the knowledge, skills, resources and opportunities they need to expand their initiatives, and links them to mentors, funders, training resources, and political advocacy opportunities to ensure that HIV interventions for young people are relevant and successful.



Faith Phiri, a GYCA member from Malawi

Faith Phiri, GYCA member from Malawi talks about the work of the organisation;

"The GYCA clubs are providing forums where girls are able to discuss and share their experience with regards to sexual abuse, HIV/Aids and their rights. In addition, girls are netball training in preparation for the HIV/Aids prevention Netball Tournament scheduled for October-December 2008.

During one of our discussions, I learnt that some of these girls were involved in what they call 'love binding', this is where a girl and a boy in a relationship, make a small scratch or graze their skins and make their wounds meet and blood mix (this is like blood covenant). The girls said that this is common amongst their peers and that they believe this helps to strengthen love and commitment to keep a relationship. Girls do this without realising that such practice can expose them to HIV/Aids infection and it was discussed at length that such practice should be discouraged.

Finally I am designing a leaflet or information sheet to be published soon. I have discovered that these girls are too hungry for this information - information which they have been denied access to for so long."

[www.youthaidscoalition.org/](http://www.youthaidscoalition.org/)



## Improving Health, Education and Participation in Zimbabwe!

### ORGANISATION:

Student Partnership Worldwide (SPW) - youth-led AIDS awareness.

### BACKGROUND:

SPW is a global leader in engaging and supporting young people to address the urgent health, education, and environmental issues in their lives. SPW's youth-led programmes reach more than 400,000 young people every week. The organisation is cited as an example of best practice for their unique methodology by UNICEF, UNAIDS, and the World Bank.

### PROJECT:

SPW organises volunteer peer education programmes in eight countries. Every year, SPW succeeds in delivering thousands of targeted health and life skills classes and health and livelihood workshops. Its volunteers also establish youth clubs, youth resource centres and community action groups where youth and adults develop solutions to local problems.

Manford (Mannie) Ncube, aged 28 from Zimbabwe, is an SPW volunteer on Zimbabwe Health Education Programme and was programme coordinator with SPW Zambia from 2002-2005. Mannie talks about the impact that SPW has had on him

"My SPW experience was a life-changing one. Working with young people was amazing, I had the opportunity to bear daily witness to their energy and enthusiasm to make things happen. My experience made me realise that with the right skills and knowledge, young people in Africa can have a positive influence on their own lives, their peers and their community. My short-term plan is to make sure that young people are participating in their own development and the development of their communities. One great thing SPW taught me was to believe in myself and have the confidence to do things. My long-term plan is to be the UN Secretary General."

[www.spw.org](http://www.spw.org)



Manford (Mannie) Ncube is an SPW volunteer

## Using Advocacy to Improve Public Policy in Guatemala

### ORGANISATION:

Incidejoen, Guatemala

### BACKGROUND:

Incidejoen, lobbies government and Congress to implement new policies around sexual education and access to health services for young people in Guatemala.

### PROJECT:

Incidejoen organises regular meetings, forums and social networks with young people within the community. The organisation also works at a national level, with youth leaders from various other groups and movements.

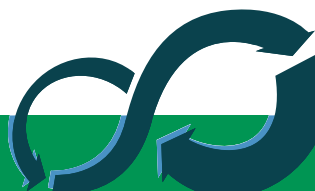
Jose Roberto Luna of Incidejoen talks about the challenges and work of his project;

"We are different from other organisations within our community because we continue to advocate for sexual education in all public schools despite the opposition we have encountered. We do not have sexual education in Guatemala, but the government and education minister have begun to recognise our efforts and offer us their support. We are a small group of about seven young people, working with adult mentors to push for the introduction of these policies and ideas that will be a positive change in our communities."

[www.incidejoen.org](http://www.incidejoen.org)



Incidejoen participants





# Environment

## Youth Providing Clean Water to Save Lives in Tanzania

### ORGANISATION:

Taasisi ya Maendeleo ya Vijana Mabibo – TAMAVIMA

### BACKGROUND:

As a water crisis hit the Mabibo ward in the Kinondoni Municipality of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 80,000 residents were left with insecure access to water. Young activists from local NGO Taasisi ya Maendeleo ya Vijana Mabibo (TAMAVIMA) took action.

### PROJECT:

The project aims to ensure secure access to clean and safe water for Mabibo residents. With a small amount of capital investment, the young people from TAMAVIMA built a series of water tanks with a capacity of 15,000 litres filled with fresh water from water tankers hired by the NGO. The project now provides access to water for over 300 families. This is one of the sustainability demonstration projects in Dar es Salaam supported by Sustainable Cities.

Traditionally in Dar es Salaam, women and children were expected to source water for the family, with many having to walk long distances on a daily basis. Children were often forced to miss school to search for water and many have been injured on the busy roads as they struggled with heavy jugs. However, with increased availability and easier access to water, this burden has been dramatically reduced. Women's time and energy can now be directed to employment or caring for their families and children have been able to spend more time in schools and on their education.



Residents of Dar es Salaam collecting water



TAMAVIMA water tanks

Access to clean drinking water has also significantly improved the health of the community. There is now a much lower risk of contracting water-borne diseases, such as severe diarrhoea. These diseases are common killers in the region severely affecting and regularly killing vulnerable groups like young children and the elderly.

As the project has expanded it has employed increasing numbers of young people directly. Six men and four women now run the programme full time. They, in turn, employ up to twenty five of their peers to take water to distant residents on push carts.

The success of the project has ensured that TAMAVIMA is now looking to use the surplus from water sales in the Mabibo ward as capital investment to expand the scheme to other communities with poor access to water.

**“We** believe youth can make changes in their communities through youth organizations like we have in our community. Once they learn the existence of a problem in their communities, through the organisation they can look for a permanent solution. When youths feel a sense of belonging to their community, they begin to take responsibility.”

clupilya@icsc.ca

## Learning the Right Way to Waste in Mexico

### ORGANISATION:

Escuadrón Ecológico (Ecological Squad)

### BACKGROUND:

We want to protect our home from the waste which represents a risk for a diversity of ecosystems, a source of water and soil pollution, and an infection carrier for human population.

### PROJECT:

The project, Escuadrón Ecológico (Ecological Squad), educates primary school children about sustainable waste management through theory classes, field trips, experiments and social exchanges. The participants also engage in strengthening infrastructure of schools with educational and recycling centres. This project has educated and involved over 2,000 locals in sustainable waste management practices.



A young boy from Puebla, Mexico demonstrating the problem of inefficient waste management that the project Escuadrón Ecológico (Ecological Squad) tries to tackle

Project Manager, Eglé María Flores González, talks about her project which is run from Puebla in Mexico;

**“In** Mexico, there are few integrated waste management programmes involving local communities; and those that are have not been evaluated and in some cases lack the basic fundamentals of sustainability. For these reasons, we decided to start an innovative education-action project that will help to mitigate this environmental problem.

We tried to use innovative and creative strategies to motivate students and citizens to enroll in action projects. We also learned that it is important to be open and consider locals' needs and proposals; to involve them not only in the activities, but also in decision making.

We also decided that rather than changing the project, we will add activities and evaluation methods to improve it. We would like to involve parents directly in all the activities and to create a website where all the participants could exchange experiences and valuable information.



Children who participate in the Escuadrón Ecológico (Ecological Squad) project in Puebla, Mexico

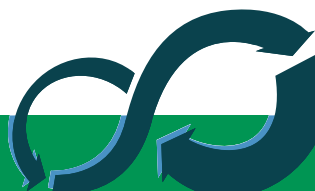
The main goal of our project is to educate for action, therefore the six participant schools continue to have a more sustainable waste management programme, working as recyclable materials' stock centres.



Escuadrón Ecológico volunteers working with a group of school children

In fact, the project has been implemented as part of their educational curricula for next year, ensuring its permanence and continuity.”

egle.flores@gmail.com





## Hooked on Agriculture in Burkina Faso!

### ORGANISATION:

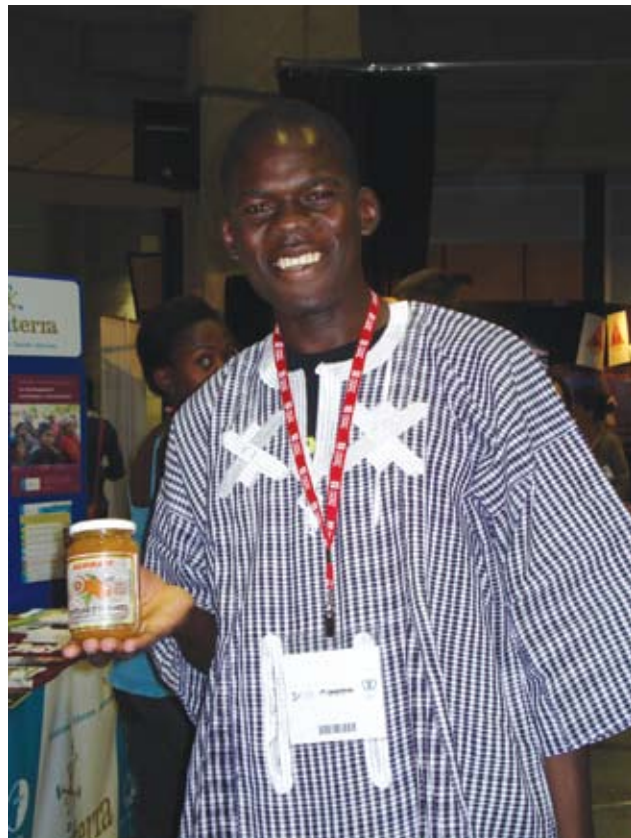
The Union des Coopératives Agricoles et Maraichères du Burkina Faso (UCOBAM) with support from Uniterra.

### BACKGROUND:

UCOBAM aims to allow young people to take the lead in the field of agriculture.

### PROJECT:

The Union des Coopératives Agricoles et Maraichères du Burkina Faso (UCOBAM), is a union of agricultural cooperatives which has existed for 38 years but only recently decided to give young people the chance to get involved as leaders. It is now essentially managed by young people who are supported by some more experienced seniors. The project works particularly towards the achievement of MDG 7.



Yacouba Palais

Since 2007, Yacouba Palais has held the position of vice-president of the organisation in Burkina Faso. Here, Yacouba talks about the importance of his organisation and the role of youth in it;

**"I** decided to get involved with the UCOBAM because for me, agriculture is at the base of everything!

I was able to study until third grade but then, my parents did not have enough resources for me to continue. Several young people also find themselves in this situation. It was then that I decided to get involved in agriculture. I learned the trade and became a very good cultivator and it is for this reason that my co-operative asked me to take a position at the UCOBAM.

With the UCOBAM, we support groups to form co-operatives and we offer training, advice and services in agricultural planning to the co-operative members.

We also defend the rights of the farmers and raise awareness in the public about the importance of agriculture. As I said, everything comes from agriculture in Burkina. The agricultural activity plays a big role to ensure education, health and to reduce the unemployment rate and poverty especially in rural areas. I encourage young people to get involved in this field. We young people have the capacity to change things!"

[www.uniterra.ca](http://www.uniterra.ca)

[ucobam@zcp.bf](mailto:ucobam@zcp.bf)

The UCOBAM is a partner of Uniterra, an international volunteering programme in Canada, which is implemented jointly by the International Center of Studies and Co-operation (CECI) and World University Services of Canada (WUSC) in 13 countries.. Uniterra program supported the participation of Yacouba PALAIS in the 4th World Youth Congress in Quebec-2008

## Addressing Climate Change in Uganda

### ORGANISATION:

African Youth Initiative on Climate Change and Ecowatch Africa, with support from YouthActionNet

### BACKGROUND:

Growing up in rural Uganda, Rachel Nampinga, now aged 29, saw clearly how floods, drought, famine, and crop failures had damaged the communities around her, and recognised how Africa is particularly sensitive to climate change, made worse by widespread poverty, and disease. Rachel, from Kampala is a YouthActionNet Global Fellow.

### PROJECT:

Rachel was the driving force behind the establishment of the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change, and in Uganda is the founder of Ecowatch Africa, a nongovernmental organisation that raises awareness of the threat of climate change and empowers people to live in environmentally sustainable ways. Among its activities: advocacy campaigns via radio; mobilization efforts among Ugandan students to plant trees; and the teaching of sustainable agriculture as a way to limit climate change activities. To date, Ecowatch Africa has conducted educational outreach in more than 200 schools.



Rachel Nampinga

Rachel talks about the importance of taking action on the issue;

**"C**limate change is already a reality in Africa. We as young people cannot sit back and wait for others to act. Our future is at stake! Change starts with individuals stepping out and deciding to play a role."

[www.youthactionnet.org](http://www.youthactionnet.org)

## Working for the Environment in Nicaragua

### ORGANISATION:

Project Nicaragua

### BACKGROUND:

**"A**fter volunteering abroad I discovered a passion for providing people with basic human needs. On my return to Canada, I decided to create a project where I could give people the tools, and the sustainable technology for them to achieve their basic human needs. I decided to do this in Nicaragua because I saw a need for this sort of project there." - Lyndsey Rosevear

### PROJECT:

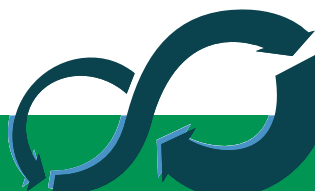
Project Nicaragua works in communities such as San Juan del Sur in Nicaragua to create and improve the environment through the use of appropriate and sustainable technology. The project brings water filters, composting bathrooms and eco-stoves to these areas and focuses on promoting education, health and sanitation. The project is run by the University of Calgary Rotaract Club and a group of Canadian university students each year to help with the implementation of this technology. In addition to this, Project Nicaragua sponsors 30 pre-schools in the region.

Lyndsey Rosevear, founder and Project Manager, talks about the significance of her project;

**"I** think the most unique part of our project is that it's all volunteer run and there are no administration fees. This makes it different to other projects because when people here in Canada give money to the projects, every dollar goes to somebody that needs it in Nicaragua. This project very easy to manage because it stayed small and is organised totally by volunteers."

[www.givemeaning.com/project/projectnicaragua](http://www.givemeaning.com/project/projectnicaragua)

[projectnicaragua@live.com](mailto:projectnicaragua@live.com)





## Bagging Pollution in Indonesia!

### ORGANISATION:

Environmental Engineering Students Community at Bandung Institute of Technology (HMTL)

### BACKGROUND:

We want to prevent pollution in our home of Bandung, Indonesia. Here, plastic bags are used in enormous numbers and they are destroying the environment. Most of the bags end up in the Citarum River and they are also burnt which pollutes the air with toxic fumes.

### PROJECT:

The young people in the Environmental Engineering Students Community at Bandung Institute of Technology (HMTL) have launched an anti-plastic bag campaign. In June 2007, they conducted a survey which showed the most influential age group to target was youth age 15-25 years because they are the future generations of bag users and therefore it would be most effective to get them to 're-think' their bag use habits early on in life.

To create a trend of awareness about plastic bag use and its negative impacts in their country, HMTL sponsored children's poetry exhibitions, spoke on talk shows, sponsored community games and events, and launched a national media campaign which reached across all of Indonesia.

Cinta Azwiendasari, a member of the movement, talks about the work of the project;

**"Reducing plastic bags is one of the simplest and easiest ways to solve this environmental crisis. Even though the concept of an anti-plastic bag campaign is already known worldwide, it is actually an innovation in Indonesia. That is why this project, initiated by students, indicates how important young people are to the achievement of the MDGs.**

An entire student movement resulted from the campaign which encourages them to start reducing plastic by bringing their own bags, or 'saying no to plastic bags'. The activities are helping Indonesia to achieve the MDG goal of environmental sustainability."

## Environmental Education for Youth in Egypt

### ORGANISATION:

YESBU - Youth for Environmental Sustainability and Better Understanding/Bibliotheca Alexandrina

### BACKGROUND:

The aim of the project, run by YESBU - Youth for Environmental Sustainability and Better Understanding/Bibliotheca Alexandrina, is to deliver developmental and environmental education to Arabic youth. "Youth see the world as it is. We are the ones that see the world without a shield of selfishness... It is our time to learn and be positive for the future." Aliaa Zeiny, Egypt

### PROJECT:

In 2002, YESBU - Youth for Environmental Sustainability and Better Understanding/Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt embarked on a programme of environmental education, the development of scientific knowledge and building social skills for arabic youth. This project involves school students aged 13-18 years old. Activities include face-to-face lectures in Bibliotheca Alexandrina, field trips, e-learning programmes and environmental awareness programmes.



YESBU members at their stand

Aliaa Zeiny talks about the impact that the project had on her;

**"This project has taught me how to develop my communication and presentation skills. I have learned how to go on stage at big conferences to make presentations. For example, I made a presentation at the Global Environmental Youth Convention in 2006 in Dubai and won first prize. I feel that my education really paid off. By now we have reached out to more than 600 students in Egypt and that is even more beautiful than the prize itself."**

[www.bibalex/yesbu](http://www.bibalex/yesbu)

## Befriending the Environment in India

### ORGANISATION:

The Friendship Foundation

### BACKGROUND:

The Foundation believes in fostering greater amity between humans and nature through involving young people and children in positive environmental actions.

### PROJECT:

The Friendship Foundation is a youth-led, grass roots, registered trust based in Hyderabad working on environment and sustainable development related issues since 2002. The areas of work include environmental education, sustainable development, pollution control, youth empowerment and participation in environmental initiatives.

Vikram Aditya talks about the work of the foundation;

**"The Friendship Foundation has been involved in climate change education since 2006, and has been undertaking public outreach programmes and awareness campaigns in schools and institutions for the past two years, often in partnership with other organisations. It has also undertaken projects on community forest management and trade justice in villages close to Hyderabad. We were involved in an awareness programme for Vana Samrakshana Samithi (VSS) committee members of several villages in Vikarabad forest range, educating them on the importance of planting native plant species over alien species.**

More recently, we became associated with a massive clean up drive of the Bellal Cheruvu Lake in Bodhan, Nizamabad district, Andhra Pradesh, and provided the necessary technical and manpower support in a lake restoration drive which was primarily undertaken by school students of Holy Mary High School, Bodhan.

The Foundation regularly organizes clean-up programmes of wetlands and lakes in and around Hyderabad, tree plantation programmes, awareness campaigns and presentations and lectures in schools and colleges of Hyderabad, and is part of various global youth and environmental networks."

## Seeking a Carbon-Free Alternative in Kenya

### ORGANISATION:

Trees for Clean Energy with support from YouthActionNet

### BACKGROUND:

Zablon Wagalla from Nairobi, Kenya was a university student studying agricultural science when he first learned about the *jatropha curcas*, a plant that can grow in marginal soil and produces seeds that can be processed into a clean energy, biofuel. He began thinking about how the plant could increase farm incomes in poor rural communities in Kenya. Zablon is a YouthActionNet Global Fellow.

### PROJECT:

Zablon founded Trees for Clean Energy, which has so far engaged more than 950 farmers in *jatropha* production. Through encouraging *jatropha* cultivation, he hopes to address poverty in the region while reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of wood and charcoal. *Jatropha* oil can be used in stoves, lamps, and small engines and is carbon free. A particular emphasis of the programme is placed on engaging local youth who have few livelihood opportunities and little hope for the future. They receive training on how to conduct local outreach, distributing seeds and providing technical assistance to farmers.

Zablon talks about the need for such a project in his area;

**"My community has never had a cash crop. Now they are busy working toward the development of their society and are investing their energy in conserving the environment."**

[www.youthactionnet.org](http://www.youthactionnet.org)



Zablon Wagalla with William Reese and another YouthActionNet Global fellow



## Using Science to Make Water Safe in Korea

### ORGANISATION:

No Harmful Elements for Students

### BACKGROUND:

"After entering the Korea Science Academy, a high school for students who are interested in Science and Technology, I decided to create my own environmental movement with a 'scientific' twist. I created a project to analyze and manage the pollutants in the soil and water in the schools in our community."

### PROJECT:

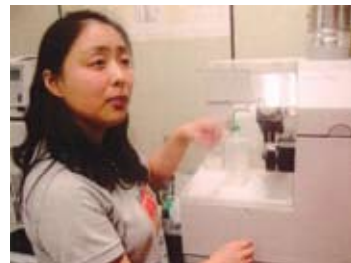
The project's main focus is on the environment and it aims to reduce the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. This project, entitled 'No Harmful Elements for Students' aims to analyze and manage the pollutants in the soil and water in the elementary, middle and high schools in Jeju Island with ICP-MS (ICP-MS is a device used to analyze the mineral elements of soil and water).

Imseok Kang talks about the details of his project;

"I use the ICP-MS to accurately calculate the content of regulated elements. This includes hazardous heavy metals, which are contained in the soils of the playground and the potable water stand in schools. All the results from these experiments are a combination of works performed by chemists as well as researchers and environmental activists. They not only include a lot of data to which environmental activists can refer but they also contain scientifically significant meanings. I want to assist people around the world by reducing the number of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation."

My plan received an award from the Government Youth Commission as one of the remarkable programmes for the Local Society Change. It is an entirely youth-led initiative, as I believe that youth led initiatives are important because youth are the most energetic section of society. With the power of youth, the world can be a better place."

mseok.kang@gmail.com



Working in the lab for safe drinking water

## Saving the Last Trees in Ghana

### ORGANISATION:

'When the Last Tree Dies, the Last Man Dies'

### BACKGROUND:

To empower young students and prevent the destruction of Ghana's trees.

### PROJECT:

'When the Last Tree Dies, the Last Man Dies' was introduced at St. Cecilia's Catholic School, Wa-Sombo in Ghana so that every pupil could plant a tree before he/she completes school. 150 trees, comprising of neem, mango, guava, cashew, acacia and teak have been planted around the school's land. The aim of the project is to plant 2,000 trees within a four year period in order to combat the destruction of trees through bushfires and indiscriminate felling.

Dannah Thomas from the University for Development Studies in Wa-Sombo, Ghana, talks about the project;

"125 people are involved in this youth-led project, and it benefits everyone. The trees serve as a shade when the sun is scorching and some of the leaves are used for herbal medicine, while leaves and dead roots serve as manure."

The project will now start to focus on the developing gullies which are becoming difficult to control, and are widening and causing our school building to collapse. I believe that governments can help projects such as this by acknowledging the efforts of young people trying to transform negative situations. They should help with logistics and other inputs."



Planting trees in St. Cecilia's School

## Fashioning a Sustainable Future in Quebec

### ORGANISATION:

MIRE EnScène

### BACKGROUND:

"Wear the change you want to see in the world!"

### PROJECT:

MIRE EnScène is a socially responsible enterprise founded in 2003 and run by two young self-taught entrepreneurs, Lara Elmond and Perle Fostokjian, respectively aged 18 and 19 years old. It operates in the fields of fashion design and shows. Lara, who is the designer of the clothing lines works from recycled materials in order to raise awareness about environmental issues. Pearl, who is the stage director, presents amazing multidisciplinary shows by doing self-esteem work with all of the models who represent the various types of silhouettes and ethnicities that form the beautiful diversity of our world.



Models at a MIRE EnScène fashion show

Lara talks about the work of MIRE EnScène;

"MIRE EnScène works towards ensuring environmental sustainability by mixing up the environment and the humans that live in it. We also promote other ethical, fair trade, ecological and local designers at our events. Furthermore, each show we put on is a way for youth to be the change they want to see in the world by raising awareness around different issues such as HIV and AIDS. In addition, all the profits are given to a charity each year."

Respect, open mindedness and community engagement are the three core values of this organisation. Over the past five years, we have mobilised more than 200 voluntary youths each year and this is only the beginning of a strong youth-led change.

Diversity is what beautifies our world, MIRE EnScène uses the arts to establish collaborations, educate and find solutions to global issues."

info@mireenscene.com

www.mireenscene.com

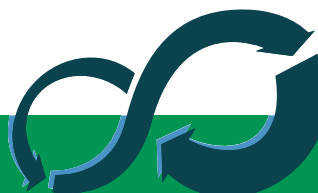
www.myspace.com/mireenscene.com

www.flickr.com/mireenscene

www.takingitglobal.org :

http://profiles.takingitglobal.org/Perle

http://profiles.takingitglobal.org/laraemond





## Reconnecting with the Yamuna River in India

### ORGANISATION:

SWECHHA

### BACKGROUND:

'SWECHHA - We for Change Foundation' is a movement - a consensus among people about the nature of society, its problems and possible ways to work towards a positive change. 'SWECHHA' in Hindi means 'Swayam ki Echha' or what is called 'Willingness'. The organization believes that willingness demonstrated through volunteerism becomes the basis for bringing about 'change'.

This movement towards change started as the 'We for Yamuna' campaign undertaken by a group of young volunteers in India in the year 2000. The campaign aimed to tackle the pollution and neglect of the river Yamuna, the waterway, considered the 'lifeline' of Delhi; and within months of its inception it was able to mobilise more than 500 volunteers to work on the project.

### PROJECT

Swechha became a fully-fledged NGO in 2001. A number of street plays, photo exhibitions, film screenings, workshops and public meetings were held in various schools and colleges to enhance the visibility of the cause. The objective in the long run was to create a healthier social environment and to re-establish our connection not only with the river but also with the environment (both ecological and social) in general. Over the years, it has evolved from a campaign into a full-fledged dynamic programme.

Sunny Verma, Programme Co-ordinator, talks about the campaign and how it has progressed since its foundation;

"The campaign was started as a students' initiative by the founder of Swechha, Vimlendu Jha, who was then only 21, as a means of knowing more about the pitiable condition of the river Yamuna, and how people can contribute towards changing the condition of this river; which supports 70 million people and yet remains ignored.

The campaign highlighted the religious, social, cultural, political and economic importance of the river and was aimed at mobilising support of the masses, spreading awareness,



Participants on a SWECHHA project

putting pressure on the government to take action and respecting our environment by being more responsible citizens. It also helped in sensitizing people, by showcasing the lives of those who were directly affected by the river and how those who weren't, abused the same. Hence, the river became a critical development issue.

It was a unique and aggressive campaign, which focused on using innovative ideas like street plays, staging protests, signature campaigns etc. to spread the message and thus, make an impact.

By 2006, when I joined Swechha in 2006, the campaign was engaged in a number of innovative activities including;

**YAMUNA YATRA** – Along the banks of the river, participants traced the origin of the river Yamuna from Yamunotri in northern India to Agra. Through this, they also witnessed the degradation of the river as it flows. Volunteers from Sri Lanka, Finland, United Kingdom and India facilitated a dialogue between partners for inter-cultural exchange on youth leadership and life skills, capacity-building, and other issues pertaining to society, economy, politics and culture.

**JIVISHA** – This is a film on the journey of the river, Yamuna, celebrating its undying spirit. This has become a medium to bring people closer to the river. Film screenings were held in 65 lead schools across Delhi, supported by the Delhi Government.

**PHOTO EXHIBITIONS and STREET PLAYS** – are staged on the banks of the river.



**SHRAMDAAN** - One of our most successful means of raising consciousness has been the monthly shramdaan, a symbolic cleaning of the river. "Shram" means labour and "daan" means donation or charity. It is done by a group of volunteers who remove plastics, slush

and other garbage from the water and surrounding areas from one of the many banks of Yamuna.

'We for Yamuna' reaches out to more than 5-7 thousand people in a year through its various activities."

Vimlendu Jha, Founder & Executive Director

Swechha - We for Change Foundation

"An organisation of young people has its advantages and disadvantages. Most people think that wisdom comes with age, but we don't have any grey hair yet... The Yamuna River and the environment are our immediate concerns, but the larger call is to get young people to participate in the community, and not just be fence sitters. Struggles are many but our spirits are high."

[vimlendu@gmail.com](mailto:vimlendu@gmail.com)

[www.swfc.org.in](http://www.swfc.org.in)

[www.cnn.com/bethechange](http://www.cnn.com/bethechange)



Learning about the Yamuna River





# Youth-led Business

## Making a Living from Waste in Tanzania

### ORGANISATION:

Wazo la Wiki supported by Sustainable Cities

### BACKGROUND:

The aim of Wazo la Wiki is to empower members and others by utilising waste resources.

### PROJECT:

In 1998 after receiving skills training on income generating activities a group of 7 youths of the Wazo la Wiki Group in Tanzania started a kitchen-ware manufacturing project. By creating kitchen utensils from scrap metal, the members have been able to support themselves economically and provide training for other youths. The project involves literally no waste because it uses scrap metals and the tiny pieces of metals that are leftovers are also sold as scrap to industries for melting. As of now, the group has grown to 25 members of which 22 are male and 3 females.

This group has increased individual income and has improved the economic status of each member so that they now manage to pay their children's school fees from project income.

Wazo la Wiki Group project is now used as an apprenticeship for other youths in the community. Ten youths have so far graduated and are running independent workshops. Currently there are 5 youths who are undergoing apprenticeship which is given free to those coming from the local community.



Locals working with Wazo la Wiki



Wazo la Wiki products

One of the founding members, Athuman Mohamed speaks about the work of the project;

**"P**reviously each of us had individual activities that were not very productive but after joining hands and attending the training that was conducted by Sustainable Cities we became more productive and an economic force. People trust us and allow even their children to come and learn from us."

Another founding member, Mr. Sadiki Hamza, adds;

**"W**hen I think of the miserable life that I once lived, I get an urge to keep working in this project. It's an employment to us therefore we must keep on working rather than idling."

wazolawiki@yahoo.co.uk

## Supporting Businesses to Succeed in China

### ORGANISATION:

Wokai

### BACKGROUND:

Currently in China, 200 million people live on less than \$1 a day. NGO Wokai, meaning 'I start' in Chinese is inspired by a commitment to alleviate poverty in China, one loan at a time.

### PROJECT

Wokai is a non-profit which runs a user-driven microfinance website that connects contributors in the USA with borrowers in China. Users choose borrowers to support, watch repayments, and, once the borrower has fully repaid their loan, they pick who to fund next.

While China's economic boom has enriched urban areas it has left incomes and living standards in some rural areas stagnant. These rural residents lack the basic infrastructure and human resources necessary for development. Wokai works with grassroots Field Partners, who are responsible for loan distribution at a village level and have access to the poorest of the poor.

The founders of Wokai, Courtney McColgan and Casey Wilson, argue that microfinance offers one of the best solutions to decrease poverty and income inequality by providing the poor with credit to start a small business, such as a farmer borrowing money to buy a plow. The organization has always been youth-led: both its founders were in their early twenties when they started the NGO and they are now in their mid-twenties.

Co-founder and Director of US Operations, Courtney McColgan, talks about the importance of Wokai;



A Wokai participant

**"I**n regard to China, the issue of transparency is of the utmost importance... Wokai inadvertently provides transparency.

From the moment you log on to Wokai, you are able to choose directly who your donation goes towards."

## Turning Waste into Success in Nairobi

### ORGANISATION:

Youth Business International (YBI)

### BACKGROUND:

The success of the Prince's Trust (PT) in the UK inspired Prince Charles to try the same approach overseas. It worked! Youth Business International has, to date, supported about 30,000 young people in 40 countries to start their own business.

### PROJECT:

Zablon Muthaka spotted a business opportunity in the rubbish-filled slum Kangemi, Nairobi. He decided to start Beta Bins Waste Management (BBM) with a \$1,500 grant from YBI. Zablon has built BBM into a \$6,000+ a year business, employing five previously disadvantaged young people.

Zablon talks about how his new-found sense of ambition;

**"I** want to be the Bill Gates of the waste management and environmental conservation industry. Waste is a renewable resource - a source of energy, fertiliser and other raw materials. It just needs Beta Bin Management!"

His mentor, Philip Gitou, was also inspired by the experience;

**"W**atching Zablon grow into a real businessman who supports the wider community through the services he provides and the direct employment of disadvantaged young people has made me re-think some of my own business strategies."

www.youth-business.org



Zablon Muthaka





## Supporting Entrepreneurs to Succeed in the UK

### ORGANISATION:

Prince's Trust (PT), UK

### BACKGROUND:

When the Toxteth riots erupted in Bristol in 1972, Prince Charles visited the area. He discovered that unemployment, and with it the sense of utter hopelessness and lack of opportunities, was the main problem that blighted the area. "Why don't you get out and start your own businesses if you cannot find anyone to give you a job?" the Prince asked. "Who'd give us a loan to do that?!" said a youth, stating the obvious. The Prince thought for a moment, then said: "Well I will..." And he did. And that was the start of the Prince's Trust (PT) - one of the earliest, and most successful examples of youth-led development.

### PROJECT:

Paula Vika, a young refugee from Angola's civil war, arrived in the UK penniless with a young child. She tells of the progress she has made with the help of the PT;

"My dream was to be an independent hair-dresser, creating African and European hair styles. But I couldn't get a loan from the banks. The Prince's Trust helped me with a business plan and taught me how to do market research - to see if the business would work. I got out on the street and found many excited and interested in my ideas. So, the Trust gave me a loan and New Entrepreneur Scholarship which helped me to start up my own salon. I now employ two staff and train a young girl who comes in on Saturdays. Business has been very good."

[www.princes-trust.org.uk](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk)



Paula Vika with a client. Paula received support from PT to start her own business and now runs her own successful salon

## Encouraging Youth Employment in Philippines

### ORGANISATION:

Philippine Youth Employment Network with support from YouthActionNet

### BACKGROUND:

At the age of nine, Audrey Codera from Pasig City, Philippines, watched as a young girl living on the street knocked on the window of her family's car begging for money. That experience instilled in her a profound desire to help others who did not have her same opportunities in life. Audrey is a YouthActionNet Global Fellow.

### PROJECT:

In 2003, at the age of 23, Audrey created the Philippine Youth Employment Network to stimulate youth employment and employability in grassroots communities. As part of that effort, she developed YouthWorks, Inc., the first micro-finance institution for youth in the Philippines. To date, YouthWorks has supported more than 10 young people, ages 13 to 30, through loans ranging from US\$100 to \$400.

Among the projects her organisation has funded: young people recycle material from political ads into fashionable bags and wallets. The project so far has employed nearly 300 out-of-work individuals.

Audrey talks about her dream for the project;

"My vision is to have youth becoming economically sustainable so they can create social change. Already, we're seeing young people address climate change and create employment."

[www.youthactionnet.org](http://www.youthactionnet.org)



Audrey Codera

## Building Youth Skills across Canada

### ORGANISATION:

Mavericks

### BACKGROUND:

"It was my own experience in grade 12 that inspired me to create this initiative. I saw lots of people selling their values and considering going into jobs that they knew they would not enjoy. They did this because it was the simpler option. So I wanted to provide them with easy accessible opportunity to get involved in organisations that matched their interest." Jamie Arron, founder Mavericks.

### PROJECT:

The project connects high school students with social innovators/entrepreneurs. It was initiated in September 2007 and has a staff of 7 people working towards ensuring that young people are equipped with the skills and experience to pursue the job of their choice. It has created many networks and initiated dialogue between students and social investors. It has the potential of eliminating the leadership and employment issues in the future.



One of Mavericks' very first participants Liam O'Toole



Two of Mavericks' community members having a great time!

Jamie Arron from Canada, founder of Mavericks, talks about the work of the project;

"Throughout my high school career, I was always more of the entrepreneurial type and I didn't have the feeling that school system suited my style. I wanted something that would allow me to go out there and do it in the real world, while also getting school credits for it. This is why I created the Mavericks project. Now, high school students are given the opportunity to go in and create projects for the organisations and get school credits for it. That's the defining feature - that the student get school credits for doing whatever it is they love. We also support all organisations working with MDGs by providing student volunteers. We believe that if young people do not gain skills now, they will face difficulties in the future."

[jamie@mavericksofsocialchange.ca](mailto:jamie@mavericksofsocialchange.ca)

[www.beamaverick.ca](http://www.beamaverick.ca)



Mavericks' Photography Bruno Zgrablic





## Sparking Regrowth in the Balkan Region

### ORGANISATION:

SPARK – nurturing youth-led business start-ups

### BACKGROUND:

SPARK has set up five Business Start-up Centres (BSCs) across the Balkan region to build the capacity of local economic and educational institutions to empower young people to lead their post-conflict societies into prosperity. It differs from straight private sector development in that its focus is on young people – their education and empowerment to achieve sustainable poverty reduction through job and business creation.

### PROJECT:

The approach differs from centre to centre, for example, in Bitola, Macedonia, the BSC organises a 2-step Business Plan Competition.

Step 1 helps young entrepreneurs transform a business idea into a business plan. The five best entrants are coached to transform their ideas into complete, bankable business plans.

These plans will, if selected by an official jury, be given 'incubation' – registration, consultancy services, office space, IT, phone and fax facilities, photocopiers and, of course, micro-credit loans – to kick-start their business.



Valton Berisha who has set up a new business in Kosovo

In addition, each BSC offers courses in Business Skills Training.

Valton Berisha fled Kosovo during the civil war and moved to Switzerland, making a living by working in farms

and construction companies. He then learnt German and became a certified Microsoft Engineer.

When he heard that SPARK had set up a BSC in Kosovo, he applied to them with a business plan for a new consulting company. His plan was selected by the jury.

Valton talks about his experience with the BSC in Kosovo;

“At first I decided to come only for three weeks but the training was very interesting and very professional, something I’m used to seeing in Switzerland but which I didn’t expect in Kosovo.”

Valton is now planning an initial investment of €60,000-€100,000 and hiring 13 staff to provide qualitative consulting services for businesses. He is very enthusiastic and optimistic about his new business and is convinced that it will be a success. Because of the training provided by SPARK’s BSC, he believes that his homeland is an attractive place in which to invest and that it has potential for economic growth.

[www.spark-online.org](http://www.spark-online.org)



Graduates from the Business Start-up Centre in Kosovo

# Communication and Cultural Exchange

## Connecting Young People in China and India

### ORGANISATION:

China India Forum

### BACKGROUND:

Together India and China constitute one third of the world’s population and therefore peace in each country and between the two is vital for the world. If even one third of the global population were at peace, the world would be a better place.

### PROJECT:

China-India Forum was started when a group of Chinese and Indian youth met at Peking University, Beijing in February 2007. They decided to create a platform for cross-cultural dialogue and action, working towards a responsible, plural and harmonious society in the interests of both countries. They believe they can achieve this through hosting forums in both India and China.

The long terms goals of this project are firstly to make friends, secondly to work towards peace and thirdly to jointly work on sustainable development projects. The next forum in China will bring youths from Central, East and West Asia into dialogue too.

John Anugraha, one of the forum organisers, talks about his involvement in the forum;

“The forum has two specific activities a year. One is a physical forum where young people from India and China meet to



Participants of the China India Forum



Participants of the China India Forum at the Taj Mahal

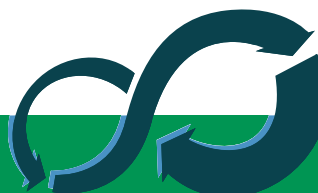
discuss and dialogue on different themes, varying from environment to education, the role of religious leaders and media, role of women, etc.

The other activity is an online dialogue which focuses on appreciating each others’ cultures, discussing the various activities of the countries, as well as all the themes discussed earlier in the forum. An effort is also made by the members to bring more young people into the forum through activities in their respective countries like college festivals or NGO organised forums”

[www.chinaindiaforum.org.in](http://www.chinaindiaforum.org.in)



Participants of the China India Forum





## Youth Making Change in Egypt

### ORGANISATION:

TakingITGlobal in partnership with Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt

### BACKGROUND:

TakingITGlobal, online hub and mentorship platform, launched the 'Youth for Change' project to inspire, inform and involve youth from the Arab world to become agents of change in their communities!

### PROJECT:

TakingITGlobal launched this project in March 2008 in partnership with Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt to engage youth in cross-cultural dialogue as well as support youth-led development through local projects in 10 Arabic countries: Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Bahrain, Yemen, UAE, Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine.

The Youth for Change project focuses on providing youth with the space to express their views freely and discuss the challenges and issues that affect them whether online, through discussion forums, live chats and blogs or through open forums conducted in each of the 10 countries.

The project also provides mini-grants and online training to support 15 projects in the different priority countries, that focus on crucial issues that face young people in the Arab world. It also provided scholarships to two mini-grant winners to attend the World Youth congress in Quebec.



Participants on TakingITGlobal's 'Youth for Change' programme

Mini-grant/scholarship winner, Rashed Al-Ghayed from Bahrain, talks about the importance of the project to him;

"I learned a lot from the World Youth Congress. Youth projects I heard about push me to be more motivated. My youth project in Bahrain will obtain new ideas and techniques from what I learned here."

Asmaa Abdel-Gawad from Egypt adds,

"The World Youth Congress was a great chance for me to meet youth from all over the world. However, we are different but we all have the same goal which is to be together for a better community and for a better world."

Project Manager: Tala Nabulsi

Tala@takingitglobal.org

<http://projects.takingitglobal.org/youthforchange>

## Teaching the Charleston in Czech Republic!

### ORGANISATION:

Grandma, Teach me how to Dance Charleston

### BACKGROUND:

We wish to break down intergenerational age barriers and promote positivity across age groups.

### PROJECT:

Grandma, Teach me how to Dance Charleston is a youth-led development initiative based in Olomouc, Czech Republic. The project aims to achieve intergenerational co-operation and dialogue.

Alena Vanickova talks about the impetus behind the project;

"I feel a barrier exists between generations. Each has misperceptions of the other and if we can improve communication and co-operation they will better understand the more positive aspects. The youth involved with the project highlight examples of any group or club (sports, chess, art group etc.) where young people and older people are working together. These examples are then collected into a report and presented to the public with photos."

United Games of Nations / [alena.vanickova@unitedgames.org](mailto:alena.vanickova@unitedgames.org)

## Connecting Young European and Mediterranean Journalists

### ORGANISATION:

Euro-Mediterranean Academy for Young Journalists

### BACKGROUND:

The tragedy and violence which resulted over the media's depiction of the Prophet Mohammed in political cartoons was one of a number of events that prompted the Euro-Mediterranean Academy for Young Journalists to send 18 young journalists to Jordan for training on intercultural communication/intercultural dialogue and exchange of good practices of journalism.

### PROJECT:

The young people of the Euro-Mediterranean Academy for Young Journalists recognise that they are the ones who need to take responsibility for the future of their profession. No umbrella organisation currently connects Mediterranean journalists with European journalists, and there is an even greater disconnection between journalists in Europe and the Middle East.

Eva Pentz, aged 24 from Austria, talks about the importance of the project;

"Following the violent reaction to the depiction of Prophet Mohammed, the Euro-Mediterranean Academy of Young Journalists decided to establish an exchange workshop for 18 young journalists from across the EU, North Africa and the Middle East for training and sensitization. Journalists from countries such as France, Denmark, Israel, Lebanon and Egypt participated in the 10-day session. The groups engaged in intercultural communication workshops, and intercultural



Participants on the Euro-Mediterranean Academy of Young Journalists' exchange programme

dialogue and worked in teams to create articles covering intercultural issues in Jordan.

The most fascinating thing for me was that we all communicated and talked. All of us realised that overcoming prejudices only works when you meet the people. We explored our different views on best practice in journalism and analysed the power of the media to influence our perception of each other.

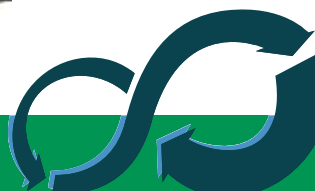
Everyone returned to their home countries with a deeper grasp of the challenges facing their profession of journalism - one that has a significant influence over the development of humanity. The Academy saw the value in making a long term investment which institutionalises cultural sensitivity in the field of journalism and through their actions they have made a wonderful contribution toward achieving the 8th Millennium Development Goal of creating a global partnership for development."

[www.emaj-academy.org](http://www.emaj-academy.org)

[emaj2008@gmail.com](mailto:emaj2008@gmail.com)



A range of national newspapers representing the various countries where young journalists on the programme came from





## Connecting Young People in Africa

### ORGANISATION:

Network of Africa Youths for Development (NAYD)

### BACKGROUND:

"I was inspired by the energy of the World Youth Congress in Scotland to create a network in order that African youths could engage in dialogue about development." Pochi Tamba, founder NAYD

### PROJECT:

Inspired by the energy of the third World Youth Congress, Pochi Tamba from Cameroon, embarked on the creation of the Network of Africa Youths for Development (NAYD). Through this network, African youths from about 25 countries can exchange views and experiences.

The first meeting of NAYD was held in Cameroon in March 2007 and the group continues to thrive.

Founder, Pochi Tamba, talks about the growth of the organisation;

"Today, NAYD has 194 members. It has nine offices in Cameroon, Liberia, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Malawi, and Burundi. Each month we hold a conference via the internet and discuss on issues that affect our activities."

The project is ongoing and I hope it lasts long after us. I believe our African governments should involve youths more in decision making, especially when these decisions directly concern them.

Monthly, we also publish a newsletter called INSPIRE that showcases the activities of African Youths in Development. And our website serves to publish all information of interest to the youths of the network."

pochitamba@nayd.org

www.nayd.org



Pochi Tamba

## Taking the First Step

### ORGANISATION:

First Step Campaign

### BACKGROUND:

The First Step project was inspired by the necessity to empower youth to bring their energy, thoughts, innovativeness, and dedication into action and take positive steps to create a positive change. "The journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step."

### PROJECT

First Step idea was initiated by a group of young activists who took part in the CIVICUS Youth Assembly 2008 in Glasgow, Scotland, and developed the idea through their discussions during the assembly.



Some of the members of First Step

The project goals are to inspire and activate those who have not participated yet in community affairs, sustain those who are already involved in their community, link communities, organizations and groups working. Project Manager, Mostafa Nejati speaks about the impetus behind the project;

"In reality the first step is always the hardest to take. Often people do not know what their first step is how to take the first step and they are not aware that such a step is necessary. People have great power and unlimited energy."

Let us embrace and celebrate the stories of this energy, the narratives of change. We all dream of a world that is just and fair. We wish to create a world that does not marginalise people based on their age, color, language, skills, culture and location. When making a dream into reality, we must take the first step for change, be it local, national or international"

www.your1step.org

# Peace-Building

## Young People Building Peace in Colombia

### ORGANISATION:

Children of War, Seeking Peace - Children's Peace Movement in Colombia

### BACKGROUND:

In Colombia, South America, generations have lived and died in an unrelenting state of war. However, children have never been seen as the purveyors of peace, only as victims of war. In 1996, three young people, Farliz Fanny Calle Guerrero, 18, Juan Elias, 17, and Mayerly, 14 set out to change this.

### PROJECT:

The Children's Peace Movement in Colombia was founded in 1996 by Farliz Fanny, daughter of a banana plantation worker from Apartado, one of Colombia's most violent municipalities, along with Juan Elias and Mayerly. They began a campaign to organise a nationwide children's election. In an overwhelming response, nearly three million children turned up at the polls to voice their desire for peace. Farliz Calle and her co-founders then spoke at meetings around the world.

At one, in The Hague, their translators broke down in tears at their words. At another, on television in Panama, the station held up advertisements and other programming so that these children could continue speaking. In 1999, they were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Sara Cameron, author of the Nobel Peace Prize nomination papers for the The Children's Peace Movement, Colombia, talks about how inspirational the work of the Children's Peace Movement is;

"The stories of these children are overwhelming, powerful, and life-changing – expressing incredible faith that peace is possible. I asked Colombia's President Pastrana what was the hardest obstacle to overcome in the effort to make peace. He said that it was the lack of faith that peace was possible. This is what makes the stories of the young people in this book so important."

[http://www.saracameron.org/index\\_files/page0001.htm](http://www.saracameron.org/index_files/page0001.htm)

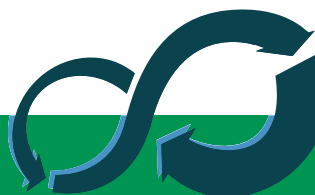


The Children's Peace Movement, Colombia. The father of the girl in the centre was killed by para-militaries



## The Children's Peace Movement

Farliz Fanny Calle Guerrero and other founder members of Columbia's Children's Peace Movement





## Fighting Crime, in Search of Peace in Liberia

### ORGANISATION:

Youth Crime Watch Liberia (YCWL)

### BACKGROUND:

"We wish to heal the wounds of war left on Liberia's people after over a decade of violent conflict."

### PROJECT:

Youth Crime Watch Liberia (YCWL) is an organization run by a team of fifteen young people between 18 and 29 years old.

It is based in Monrovia, Liberia and was first established in 2004 when it partnered with UNDP and OXFAM to distribute over 10,000 youth-designed posters speaking out against violence and arms proliferation in communities.

Then, they intensified their campaign to educate communities about arms control by hosting workshops on what to do if an illegal arms cache was discovered within their neighborhood.

Since the end of the war, YCWL has begun expanding across the entire country and their newest initiative is a mentoring programme which works through schools to link youth with responsible adult role models.



Examples from the poster campaign run by Youth Crime Watch Liberia



Zuo Taylor, Executive Director YCWL, talks about the ethos of the project;

"We believe that when a country is crime free, investors will come into the community and we believe that it is our civil responsibility to work toward this goal. We want to help mitigate crime and even though we will never be completely crime free, we want to work toward this as an end goal. We want to encourage people to report arms in the community and it is essential that youth are involved in the process because police dossiers say that 85% criminal activities are by young people so young people need to engage young people – nothing for us, without us."

ycwliberia@yahoo.com

www.ycwa.org/world/liberia



# Lessons Learned

Browsing through this collection of project stories, told from the perspective of the young project co-ordinators themselves, we can see that many lessons have been learnt along the way.

### A project succeeds because it is a good project, not because it is youth-led project

"What interests us is not that it is youth-run or driven by youthful idealism: we fund this because it is an excellent model of a development intervention. It works and can be replicated throughout our region. That's why we support it."

- Christina Carasco, IADB officer in charge of the finance for Un Techo Para mi País project

### Attitudes rather than issues are often the problem

"At Positive Women's Network, we see ignorance and harmful attitudes, rather than the HIV virus, as our greatest enemy. There is a critical lack of knowledge among women about the virus."

- Kousalya Periasamy, founder of Postive Women's Network, India.

### Peer-to-peer work is key

"During the hardest period of Taliban rule over Afghanistan we had a very tough time trying to keep up the academy. However, we were able to get those volunteers who were educated through the academy to work for the academy."

- Sayed Faheem Egbali of the Balwa Science Academy, Afghanistan

"I know what it is like to live as a street child because I have lived that life. I was abused, neglected and dejected ... The aim of the project is to advocate for street children to access primary education. Through co-ordinating this project, I learnt that street children are severely traumatised and they need love and security in order to develop healthily."

- George Reginald Freeman, Concern for Children and Youth Organisation, Sierra Leone

### Learning and helping works both ways

"My stay there has changed my perspective on life. From these people, I have learnt the difference between a luxury and necessity. I also believe that the West can learn a lot from them because eventually we are all going to face a resource crunch. They know how to live with less resources, and not out of choice but because they are forced to."

- Sarah Ong - Operation Mercy Tajikistan with Engineers Without Borders – UK

### Inspiration has a part to play

Although we live in a cynical world, some people still have the ability to offer genuine inspiration. Former child labourer and human rights campaigner, Iqbal Masih of Pakistan, who was tragically killed, inspired the conception of two of the projects in this book and probably many more...

"I've realised the power kids have to make a difference, and that encourages me. I thought it was horrible that someone would shoot a little boy, probably for standing up for what's right. We're his voice now. A bullet can't kill a dream."

- Elizabeth Bloomer, USA

### The most difficult things can take you by surprise

"Firstly, I learnt that the most difficult thing was not getting the money as I believed, but actually executing it and above all gaining the commitment of the beneficiaries. It was difficult to keep the young women motivated because they were looking for immediate, short-term benefits and what the project was offering more long-term benefits."

- Djamila Ousmane Tinaou - Giving Girls Another Vision of the Future, Niger

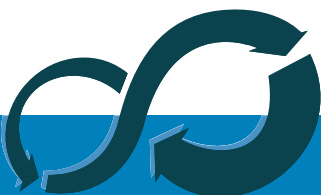






## Section Four

### The Way Ahead! Recommendations





## The Next Phase of Web-based Development

By Jennifer Corriero

Executive Director and Co-Founder TakingITGlobal

At the 4th World Youth Congress in Québec City, TakingITGlobal hosted the Virtual Congress and involved delegates from around the world in live chat sessions, webcasts, blogs, video's, photos and podcasts.

See: <http://www.wyc2008.qc.ca/virtual>

In recent years, youth-led development has become a growing priority on the international development agenda. As we have seen on the last pages, many lessons have been learned from the actions taken by the early pioneers of YLD.

Through our experiences working together with and in support of many youth networks and campaigns including the World Youth Congress, Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Global Youth Action Network, Youth Employment Summit, and various UN Youth Caucus, it is clear that the web has been leveraged to further amplify youth voices and strengthen their actions.

TakingITGlobal's online community is a prime example of the vast virtual platform of possibilities that await youth. Our projects and groups' tools can allow a young AIDS activist in South Africa to share best practices with her colleagues in India, Brazil and France.



A diverse online collection of artwork, poetry and articles give artists the chance to reflect on pressing global issues and respond creatively. In-depth information on climate change, poverty relief and human rights exists in a rich database of resources that is easily accessible and growing through community participation. TakingITGlobal members are constantly contributing content, from organisational profiles, to volunteer opportunities, to toolkits and publications, resulting in a highly evolved and dynamic network that responds to their needs and the needs of the planet.

Through the web, young people are more inspired and empowered to make a positive impact in their local communities. They are turning to technology to connect with their global peers, to share their knowledge and experience of being a youth-led development activist. The world is increasingly becoming the global village as was predicted by Marshall McLuhan: young people all over the world are using the Internet to ensure that, together, we achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and improve the lives of every person on this planet.

In spite of all of our gripes with the MDGs, the goals must be congratulated for mobilising governments and the donor community to provide more funding than any other initiative in the last few decades. They resulted in an upward curve in development spending. Also, the MDGs are very simple, accessible, easy to understand. The idea of governments signing up to specific, time-bound targets that the world could hold them accountable for – this was amazing! So, let us be wise and hold onto the precious nuggets from the MDGs that will serve us well as we look beyond 2015.

We invite you to join us in leveraging the power of the web as a tool for social change and mobilising young people to inspire, inform and involve each other in taking action to help achieve the MDGs.

Please visit: <http://www.takingitglobal.org>

## Where do we go from here in Canada?

By Christian Robitaille

National Director, 4th World Youth Congress – ReGeneration 2008, Québec City, Canada

What have we learned from this experience?

That the organisation of an event like the 4th WYC is a huge challenge.

Doing it as a youth-led organisation is even more challenging...

As with any other youth-led project, it seems that gaining trust from the government, foundations and, especially, the private sector, is a task that even "experienced youth" can't fulfil to a level of entire satisfaction. ReGeneration 2008 was no exception: a very small part of its funding came through the private sector and every dollar that was raised elsewhere required hard work and a lot of patience. Funders must learn to understand that youth-led initiatives need to be supported with criteria that respect their reality. That is a point that was made again and again in this congress and that, I'm afraid, will need to be repeated forever!

But we made it! We gathered youth on the University Laval campus (and everywhere in town!). We brought major partners and supporters of youth. We made sure that you got media's attention and we let you make your points!

In the pages that follow in this section, we record what some of the major recommendations of our Congress were. For me, the best recommendation came in the energy, friendliness and vitality of the youth from many nations who I saw around me every day, reminding me that the youth are not just the future of this planet! They are its present.

They are its best chance to change bad habits and overcome the difficulties brought about by the mistakes of past generations.

In August 2008, many people heard you, here in Québec City and around the world. The wave of ReGeneration which broke over our city in August was a strong one. You should never doubt its power. There were 100 Congresses and conventions this year in Québec City; only one made a strong point about changing the future: yours.

Now we have to move on!

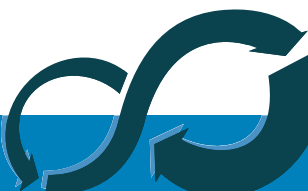
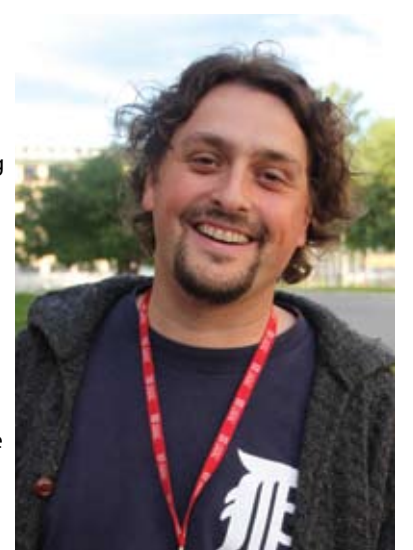
As delegates, as partners and as organizers.

Our capacity to keep that wave rolling forward will determine whether Youth-led Development is just a catchy expression or an actual movement gathering an increasing number of youth organisations, governments and individual young people from around the world. The World Youth Congress series establishes YLD as an essential driver of development but the wave it is building will only grow strong when all young people – those of you who went through the WYC experience and those who did not – rise to the challenge and make themselves indispensable to all decision makers in the field of development.

So I urge you to go back home and keep that wave surging forward, making it bigger so your generation and the ones that follow you can surf on its power forever! Make sure that you become a Champion of Youth, when you have your turn to be in a position to support them. We in Canada certainly will. We have learned the lessons that you taught us by your visit here in Québec this summer. We know now, the World has spent too much time wasting the creative and refreshing energy of its youth by confining them to small tasks! So take the stand, get your hands dirty and make things happen in respect of your values and your vision of a better world.

Youth-led Development is a multi-coloured wave of new

energy, blowing in to change the face of our world. Now, more than ever, we need youth to keep that wind blowing strongly, building that wave higher, powering it forward into every sector of society, into every corner of our world, clearing away the dust and cobwebs and ensuring that there are no more troughs of calm between the waves – just one continuous surge of change created by every new generation....





## Youth Campaigns for the MDGs: Who is doing what?

### The MDG Toolkit

In 2004, the MDG Campaign team commissioned TakingITGlobal and the Global Youth Action Network to prepare a Youth Toolkit to enable young people around the world to make a purposeful contribution to the wider campaign to achieve the MDGs.

The Toolkit contained an introduction to the Millennium Development Goals and guides on how to raise awareness and how to put pressure on governments.

The Toolkit was distributed at the 2005 World Youth Congress in Scotland and many other UN events. In Scotland, Evelyn Herfkens, Director of the MDG Campaign, told the young delegates: "If you look at any of the great campaigns of recent years, young people have always been at the forefront of them. This one is no different. We are depending on you!"



### Target 2015

Ever since the MDGs were announced, Peace Child International has always felt a duty to champion them. Evelyn Herfkens, the MDG Campaign Director, spoke at both the Morocco and the Scotland Congresses, calling on the youth of the world to put their collective shoulder to the wheel and help her to persuade governments that the MDGs are a top priority.

At the Morocco Congress, in August 2003, Peace Child produced 'Target 2015' as the major Congress outcome publication. Target 15 demonstrated, through stories and anecdotes, how much youth were already doing to help their governments achieve the MDGs in a sustainable way.



### Casablanca Declaration

The Congress also agreed, after a somewhat rocky process, on the Casablanca Declaration. The declaration called on governments to increase support help youth achieve the MDGs. The Declaration states:

"At the core of our Declaration, we, the youth, want to emphasise the need for a shift in consciousness that realises the interconnectedness between all aspects of life."

### MDG Cabaret

Peace Child also prepared an MDG Cabaret to explain the significance of the MDGs. It is a spoof 'Time-Travel TV Chat show' in which a smartly-dressed visitor from 2050 time travels back to the present (2008) to explain how a beautiful, safe, prosperous and sustainable world was created because governments, and their citizens, were stimulated to action by the MDGs.

Following a commercial break, the chat show host pushes the 'Alternative Future' button. This time, a sickly, dishevelled sad creature wearing a gas-mask returns to

demonstrate the kind of world we might be living in if we do not rise to the challenge of the MDGs. The second visitor is so distressed by the 'Alternative Future' that she lives in that she does not wish to return. "I will die!" she says, "Let me stay here and warn you how to do it right and achieve the MDGs this time round..." However, the rules of the time-travel chat show are firm: all visitors must return. There are no second chances in life: you make your bed – you lie in it. If we do not make the effort to achieve the MDGs, then we cannot complain about the world we find ourselves living in by the end of our lives. It is our choice!

### Stand up for the MDGs!

In 2006 on World Poverty Day, the MDG Campaign launched the 'Stand up for the MDGs!' campaign. The campaign invites the world's citizens to stand up and declare their support for the MDGs. In its first year, the campaign got 23,542,614 million people to stand and record their efforts on a website. The following year, 43 million stood up. As we go to press this year, the organisers are hoping that 65 million will stand up – 1% of the world's population.

In truth, it's not much of an effort just to stand up for a few seconds (It takes much longer to log your stand-up on the website!). However, the very act raises awareness – and there are many who don't know about the MDGs.

Although the MDG campaign has created the leverage to get donor governments to contribute more funding to overall development goals, we would have wished it had



Youth standing up for the MDGs in Zambia

come right out and championed the cause of Youth-led Development which, long-term, has a far better chance of reaching the goals than any other initiative. But then we would say that, wouldn't we!





## What next? Youth and the Post-2015 Agenda

Given that several governments, the United Nations and the European Commission are already discussing what might replace the MDGs in 2015, it is really important that youth also look ahead to the coming decades.

This is what young people at the World Youth Congress in August 2008 were doing, and this is what they continued to do in September at the Call to Action on the MDGs meetings in New York when they got centrally involved in the planning of the Post-2015 Agenda.



Japanese students stand up for the MDGs

### What is so wrong with the MDGs?

Why have many already started to look beyond the MDGs when we are so far from achieving them? Many would argue that they were flawed to begin with. Once you start to pick through the MDGs, a number of omissions come to light. Some obvious ones include:

- \* Why only HALVE the number living in absolute poverty? What about the other half?
- \* They should have been the Millennium Sustainable Development Goals - there are no specific targets on carbon emissions
- \* There's no mention of disabled people, or indigenous wisdom or Human Rights - the MDGs are not value-based.
- \* There are no targets for peace and conflict resolution, tackling corruption and punishing crimes against humanity;

However, the biggest problem with the MDGs was that the drafting process did not begin by engaging individuals, followed by villages, provinces, nations, then regions, then World bodies, in an upward spiral of ideas from the grassroots. Local, provincial and national MDGs might have made more sense to people and communities than the big abstractions of the Global Goals. As they were not created in an organic way and, the entire Millennium Declaration can be accused of being a document imposed on the countries of the South by the Governments of the North.

We hope that this book has clearly demonstrated the point that good development projects are not imposed from above but grow from within a community.

### What is so right with the MDGs?

In spite of all of our gripes with the MDGs, the goals must be congratulated for mobilising governments and the donor community to provide more funding than any other initiative in the last few decades. They resulted in an upward curve in development spending. Also, the MDGs are very simple, accessible,

easy to understand. The idea of governments signing up to specific, time-bound targets that the world could hold them accountable to – this was amazing. So, let us be wise and hold onto the precious nuggets from the MDGs that will serve us well as we look beyond 2015.

### Recommendations for the Post-2015 Agenda:

At the Call to Action meeting in New York, there was considerable agreement on two issues:

1. Any new set of goals should not just be global: they should be sourced from local and national goals, and only then, if it makes sense, be included in regional and global goals;
2. Each set of goals must have a detailed, costed, scheduled implementation action plan with different actors taking responsibility for undertaking the implementation

It was also agreed that there was a glaring absence of a Human Rights dimension in the goals. So, the meeting challenged the Human Rights community to create a set of indicators to measure progress towards a rights-based approach to development.

### Youth Recommendations for the Post-2015 Agenda:

The Youth papers submitted to the New York meeting by Alpha Bacar Barry (Guinea), Marina Mansilla Herman (Argentina) and Jagan Deveraj (India) contained some excellent ideas:

1. Marina called for a move away from cold, meaningless statistics to some kind of coherent value-based vision for

how to achieve planetary survival. She asked for this value-base – the creation of an over-arching vision of a safer, more equitable world - to be at the heart of the new Agenda.

2. Alpha and Jagan demanded that youth-led development be central to the post-2015 agenda. Alpha also called for the 'key elements', outlined in his West Africa Job Creation proposal, such as the inclusion of disabled youth, gender mainstreaming and anti-corruption measures, to be a part of the agenda.

3. Jagan reminded the meeting of the Top Priority agreed at our First World Youth Congress – education. He called for a focus on appropriate, experiential education, pyramids of peer-to-peer teaching schemes, along with practical entrepreneurial and social enterprise training.

The agenda is still under discussion – and it will no doubt be a major point of focus at the 2010 and 2012 Congresses.

Remember: ideas on this now can shape the agenda before the Governments get set in their ways.

So, be a part of the conversation, go to [www.whiteband.org/post2015](http://www.whiteband.org/post2015) - and get involved!



MDG campaigners in Haiti





# Congress Recommendations

These recommendations were prepared from the summaries delivered by the Rapporteurs of the Regional Round-tables convened by Delegates to the 4th World Youth Congress on Youth & Development – Regeneration 2008, Quebec City, Canada 10-21 August 2008

At the 4th World Youth Congress in Quebec City, Canada – delegates gathered in their regional groups (Africa, North Africa & the Middle East, Asia & the Island States, Latin America, North America, Europe and La Francophonie) to draw up a wishlist of recommendations to present to their governments.

The proposals are remarkably similar from each region and have changed very little from previous youth gatherings. We state them here again because, eventually, we hope that governments will listen and act on the proposals that young people have been repeating for decades. We condense them here into the three main appeals, thus:



Delegates at the Asia Regional Meeting / © Matthias Schmidt

## I. More funding:

- More funding for youth-led development action
- More funding for youth exchanges
- More funding for youth internships and mentorships
- More funding for youth community centres
- More funding for youth arts programmes.
- More funding for non-formal education, especially sustainability training
- Transfer all tobacco and alcohol tax receipts to fund drug and alcohol prevention programmes

## II. More youth participation in decision making:

- Ensure that youth are involved in government decision-making
- Set up Local, National, Regional and International youth assemblies that are listened to

- Set up Ministries of Youth run by youth
- Set up National Network of YLD groups, YLD projects and YLD opportunities
- Encourage Youth-Adult Co-management + partnerships between governments & youth
- Create comprehensive youth policies:
- Bottom-up grassroots youth policies
- Youth policies for each government Ministry
- Create regional Youth Dialogue Fora & Partnerships
- Youth Political institutions in all members of the Francophonie

## III. Improved environmental education and policies

- Ensure environmental teaching + action programmes from primary school age;
- Encourage Regional Environmental Cooperation + eliminate carbon injustice
- Suspend environmentally damaging mining activities
- Set up Youth-led media to communicate these issues to all youth

Along with the recommendations all regions shared in common, there were also some recommendations which emerged that were specific to each regional meeting:

## FRANCOPHONIE

The Conseil International des Organisations des Jeunes de la Francophonie (CIJEF) and TakingITGlobal organised a special meeting of about 40 French-speaking delegates from Senegal, St.-Lucia, Canada, Madagascar, France, Ivory Coast, Vietnam, Mali, Togo, Haiti, Romania, Egypt, Luxembourg and Morocco.



Delegates at the Francophonie Regional Meeting  
© Matthias Schmidt

Four main issues emerged as the most pressing for the Francophone delegates were the Environment, Economic Governance, Democratic Governance and the French Language. These special recommendations were presented to XIIIth Summit of Francophonie in Québec, October 2008.

## ENVIRONMENT:

- Teach environmental values from the youngest age to ensure a continuum;
- Popularise the Earth Charter around the world;

## FRENCH LANGUAGE:

- Support the arts, the media and the culture of the French expression;
- Encourage the development of French-speaking communities in the non Francophone countries like Vietnam;
- Support the teaching of the French language and French medium schools and courses;
- Support networks of young people of the French-speaking communities;
- Strengthen the programme of voluntary service of the French-speaking communities.

## ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

- Good economic governance has to take into account several stakes such as the environment, the social context, the cultural context and the social responsibility of companies;
- Develop common standards for business activity to reverse the exodus of industrial companies to less regulated countries;
- Facilitate the participation and consultation of young people in the elaboration of national economic policies and make a bigger place for youth in the international economic decision-making;
- All government decisions in the economic domain as everywhere else, must observe the disciplines of sustainable development.

## DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

- Set up and operationalise youth policies in all member countries of the Francophonie;
- Involve young people in decision-making in all French-speaking countries;
- Create a section managed by young people in every ministry and state institution;

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

- Ensure that governments better allocate resources to ensure that the capacity of youth to make changes in their communities and national life is developed and supported.

## AFRICA

- Localize the Millennium Development Goals to apply to village and community realities experienced by youth.

## EUROPE

- Simplify grant application processes for youth grants and make more bursary schemes accessible to young people enabling dialogue between youth on a global scale

## NORTH AMERICA

- Set up Youth Ministries in the United States and Canada

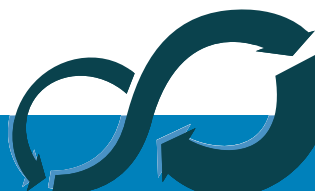
## LATIN AMERICA

The largest and liveliest of the Regional Meetings was, as usual, the Latin American one. 90+ delegates sat on the floor of a lecture hall and brainstormed ideas for how to get their governments to take more notice of their concerns. Several of them will use this book to take their concerns to their governments, to try to persuade them to take more notice of youth concerns. Chief amongst them are the following:

1. Agree common environmental policies and establish joint standards between contiguous Latin-American states.
2. Migration. Communities that receive immigrants should create specific and clear policies to provide adequate infrastructure and support.



A delegate speaking at the Africa & the Middle East Regional Meeting / © Matthias Schmidt







## Section Five

### Resource Directory





# Resource List

## Funding Sources for YLD

### 1. Peace Child International Be The Change! YLD Programme

Offers financial grants up to \$1000 and advice to young people to create and complete a variety of small-scale projects serving the needs of their community.

[www.peacechild.org/btc](http://www.peacechild.org/btc)

### 2. UN Habitat Youth-led Development Fund

To be launched in November 2008 to mobilize young people to help strengthen youth-related policy formulation and build the capacities of governments, civil society organizations and the private sector to better address youth needs and issues.

It will pilot innovative approaches to employment, good governance, adequate shelter and share information on best practices. First grants will be announced in Spring, 2009.

[partners@unhabitat.org](mailto:partners@unhabitat.org)

### 3. Ashoka Youth Venture

Inspires and invests in teams of young people to start and lead their own social ventures, building a powerful network of young changemakers across the world. Currently operates in: USA, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, India, South Africa, Thailand, France, Germany, and Spain.

[www.ashoka.org/youthventure](http://www.ashoka.org/youthventure) and [www.genv.net](http://www.genv.net)

### 4. Trickle-up

Trickle Up helps very poor people make their way out of poverty by providing business training and seed capital grants. Trickle Up offers grants(usually up to \$100), not loans, to entrepreneurs because we are committed to working with the extreme poor - especially women. We also focus on providing support to people with disabilities. We start or expand more than 10,000 businesses every year. Microenterprises works!

[www.trickleup.org](http://www.trickleup.org)

### 5. European Youth Foundation (EYF)

A fund established in 1972 by the Council of Europe to provide financial support for European youth activities that encourage co-operation among young people in Europe, promote peace, understanding and co-operation in a spirit of respect for the Council of Europe's fundamental values such as human rights, democracy, tolerance and solidarity.

[www.eyf.coe.int/fej/](http://www.eyf.coe.int/fej/)

### 6. European Commission Youth Department

The part of the European Commission that supports the five components of the Youth for Europe programme with millions of Euros. Most projects and programmes relate to academic and informal learning exchanges within Europe's borders.

[www.salto-youth.net/ec.europa.eu/youth/program/index\\_en.html](http://www.salto-youth.net/ec.europa.eu/youth/program/index_en.html)

### 7. Free the Children

The world's largest network of children helping children through education. Its primary goal is to free children from poverty and exploitation and to free young people from the notion that they are powerless to affect positive change. Free The Children has built more than 500 schools around the world and has reached more than one million young people through outreach in North America. Most of its money is raised by young people themselves in North America, Japan and elsewhere. [www.freethethechildren.com](http://www.freethethechildren.com)

### 8. Disney Minnie Grants:

Offers grants for up to \$500 to young people aged 5-14, which can be applied for by older individuals as long as the projects funded involved younger children. Usually grants are linked to Global Youth Service Day.

[www.ysa.org/AwardsGrants/DisneyMinnieGrants/DisneyMinnieGrantees2008/tabid/292/Default.aspx](http://www.ysa.org/AwardsGrants/DisneyMinnieGrants/DisneyMinnieGrantees2008/tabid/292/Default.aspx)

### 9. Commonwealth Youth Programme - RYC Innovative Project Award (RIPA) Grants:

To address the resource limitations and maximize the opportunities for personal as well as national youth development, through a strategy that supports young people's local efforts in development.

[www.thecommonwealth.org/document/176176/ryc\\_innovative\\_project\\_award\\_initiative.htm](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/document/176176/ryc_innovative_project_award_initiative.htm)

### 10. Commonwealth Youth Enterprise & Sustainable Livelihoods

A variety of initiatives including the Youth Enterprise Fund set up in the Maldives, and the Youth Credit Initiative piloted in India with microcredit loans for youth.

[www.thecommonwealth.org/Internal/152933/152934/yes/](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/Internal/152933/152934/yes/)

### 11. Silatech

Dedicated to creating 100m new jobs in the Middle East & North Africa over the next 20 years through a combination of training, capital funds, partnerships, counselling, business incubators etc.

[www.silatech.com/](http://www.silatech.com/)

### 12. IADB Youth Fund

A US\$1 million Youth Development Program for Innovation and Social Action to strengthen initiatives taken by or for young people in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Fund is part of a creative partnership between IADB and Microsoft designed to respond to the needs of disadvantaged young people, with particular emphasis on technology skills and human capacity building to provide skills for employability. 7 grants, benefitting nearly 1,400 young people in 6 countries were announced in April 2008

[www.iadb.org](http://www.iadb.org)

### 13. Prince's Trust

Provides money and support to help young people age 18-30 in the UK start up in business. Support includes low interest loans of up to £4,000 (up to £5,000 for a partnership); Ongoing advice from a business mentor; Access to a wide range of products and services including free legal helpline; Grants of up to £1,500 & Test marketing grants of up to £250 in special circumstances (subject to local availability); Call 0800 842842 or visit: [www.princes-trust.org.uk](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk)

### 14. Youth Business International

The international arm of the Prince's Trust which has set up youth-led business start-up operations in 39 countries. Interestingly, with the same mentorship support as in the UK, overseas Trusts have achieved the same level of success = 66% still in business after 3 years;

[www.youth-business.org](http://www.youth-business.org)

### 15. World Bank Development Marketplace

Awarded \$4m to 22 innovative projects from 16 countries in Sept. '08; not just for youth, DM is a competitive grant program that funds innovative, early-stage projects with high potential for development impact.

[www.developmentmarketplace.org](http://www.developmentmarketplace.org)

### 16. UNIDO MRU Job Creation Fund:

To be launched late 2008 or early 2009, this job creation programme has been developed by the UN Industrial Development Organisation in partnership with the International Labor Organisation and the UNDP to address the problem of massive youth unemployment in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Cote D'Ivoire. The regional approach to this post-conflict area is new - and it will provide YLD grants and loans to social and commercial enterprise.

Watch this space for news: [www.peacechild.org](http://www.peacechild.org)

### 17. YES Fund

A global fund for youth entrepreneurship - launched by the Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign and funded by Microsoft at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) in September 2006, with the aim of building a coalition of partners all over the world to work on 'creating markets and unleashing entrepreneurship'. The YES Fund proposes to organize a Global Business Plan Competition for potential young entrepreneurs in the age group of 18-35 years. The first pilot competition will be open to young entrepreneurs in India and Kenya.

[www.yesweb.org](http://www.yesweb.org)

### 18. [www.globalfundforchildren.org](http://www.globalfundforchildren.org)

Funds small, grassroots projects that improves the lives of children; not exclusively youth-led - but good for \$5 - \$10,000 if you have a good project for disadvantaged children;

### 19. Kenya Youth Fund for Development:

1 billion Kenya shillings are being loaned at 8% interest for youth-led business start-ups in Kenya in a programme administered by several banks and under-written by the Kenya Ministry of Youth Affairs.

[www.kie.co.ke/css/youth\\_fund.html](http://www.kie.co.ke/css/youth_fund.html)

### 20. The Peace Development Fund

Supports organisations and projects that seek to achieve peaceful, just and interdependent relationships among people and nations of the Americas.

Grants range in size from \$500 to \$10,000;

[www.peacefund.org](http://www.peacefund.org)

### 21. Internet Giving sites:

Here are just some of them – post your project or business start-up plan, and wait for online donors and venture capitalists to support you:

[www.globalgiving.com/](http://www.globalgiving.com/)

[www.justgiving.com/](http://www.justgiving.com/)

[www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org)

[www.youthgive.org](http://www.youthgive.org)

[www.edonation.com](http://www.edonation.com)

## YLD Voluntary Service Organisations - domestic & overseas Youth Service -

### 1. Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)

Founded by Alec Dickson in 1961, this is the grand-father of all international youth volunteer programmes.

It supports Britons of all ages to volunteer overseas;

[www.vso.org.uk](http://www.vso.org.uk)

### 2. US Peace Corps

2-year overseas service programmes operating in 139 countries launched in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy. More than 190,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served since then, working on issues ranging from AIDS education to information technology and environmental preservation.

The US Peace Corps has three simple goals:

- \* 1. To help people of interested countries meet their needs
- \* 2. To help the peoples served better understand Americans
- \* 3. To help Americans better understand the peoples served

[www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)

### 3. European Voluntary Service

Offers young Europeans the opportunity to volunteer in another country, for a period of two to twelve months. Open to all young people aged 18 to 30, EVS seeks to develop solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance among young people, thus contributing to reinforcing social cohesion in the European Union and to promoting young people's active citizenship.

[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc82\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc82_en.htm)

### 4. Katimavik, Canada

Around 100 groups of 11 youths (aged 17 to 21) drawn from across Canada travel together to 3 x different locations across the country for 9 months. They stay in Katimavik houses, performing 35-40 hours a week of volunteering in the local community, learning Canada's official languages, protecting the environment, leadership, cultural diversity, and leading a healthy lifestyle. One of those locations is located in a francophone community.

[www.katimavik.org](http://www.katimavik.org)

### 5. Canada World Youth

Canadian VSO;

[www.cwy-jcm.org](http://www.cwy-jcm.org)

### 6. Nigerian Youth Service Corps (NYSC)

Building national unity and harmony between the Northern and Southern parts of the Country through one year programmes of voluntary service. Corps members are expected to under take on a year-round-basis at least one community development project.

[www.nysc.gov.ng/serviceyear3.php](http://www.nysc.gov.ng/serviceyear3.php)

### 7. Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council

Arranges youth exchanges between commonwealth countries;

[www.cyec.org.uk](http://www.cyec.org.uk)

### 8. Community Service Volunteers

Supports British youth to volunteer domestically;

[www.csv.org.uk](http://www.csv.org.uk)

### 9. Envie d'Agir (want to act!)

French organisation that funds youth-led domestic action projects;

[www.enviedagir.fr](http://www.enviedagir.fr)

### 10. Kenya Education Partnerships:

Youth-led organisation specialising in school improvement in the town of Kisii, Kenya; small, attentive, brilliant!

[www.kenyaproject.org.uk](http://www.kenyaproject.org.uk)

### 11. Fredskorpset

A Norwegian version of the Peace Corps offering similar opportunities for young Norwegians overseas

[www.fredskorpset.no](http://www.fredskorpset.no)

### 12. Global Youth Service Day

3-day weekend, usually in April when young people around the world are encouraged to take action to address community problems. Operates in over 100 countries.

[www.gysd.net](http://www.gysd.net)





### 13. MBAs without Borders

This organisation empowers entrepreneurs across the globe by matching them with talented MBAs to build poverty alleviating business solutions

<http://mbaswithoutborders.org>

### 14. Raleigh International

The UK's oldest adventure/ development tourism/ action programme;

[www.raleigh.org.uk](http://www.raleigh.org.uk)

### 15. Youth Challenge International

Canadian-based organization offering young Canadians opportunities to serve overseas

[www.yci.org](http://www.yci.org)

### 16. Youth Service America

Organizes Global Youth Service Day - and promotes youth service as an essential component of every American's young life.

[www.ysa.org](http://www.ysa.org)

### 17. Zivildienst

Germany's civilian youth service organisation which runs specialist care for the elderly;

[www.zivildienst.de](http://www.zivildienst.de)

## Other Organisations - that empower and support youth -

### 1. Seeds of Peace

Founded to 'empower the leaders of the next generation' in the Middle East as a camp program with 46 Israeli, Palestinian and Egyptian teenagers. It is now a global operation with offices in Amman, Cairo, Gaza, Jerusalem, Kabul, Lahore, Mumbai, Otisfield, Ramallah, Tel Aviv and Washington, D.C.

[www.seedsofpeace.org](http://www.seedsofpeace.org)

### 2. Youth Crime Watch

Started in Miami, USA in 1979, it now operates in 26 countries; empowering and training students to police themselves against violence and crime, and changing attitudes towards drugs, alcohol, gangs etc.

[www.ycwa.org/world/index.html](http://www.ycwa.org/world/index.html)

### 3. Peace Brigades International

Sends international volunteers to areas of conflict, providing protective accompaniment to human rights defenders and facilitating other peace-building initiatives.

[www.peacebrigades.org](http://www.peacebrigades.org)

### 4. Network of Africa Youths for Development (NAYD)

Started in 2006 to promote YLD across Africa. Today it involves 40 youth-led projects in about 20 African countries

[www.nayd.org](http://www.nayd.org)

### 5. Students Partnership Worldwide (SPW)

Works in six countries to promote youth-led development, sexual health, HIV-AIDs and some volunteer programmes

[www.spw.org](http://www.spw.org)

### 6. Young Peace Brigades

Ghana Volunteer YLD organisation

[www.youngpeacebrigades.org](http://www.youngpeacebrigades.org)

### 7. Council of Europe Youth Centre

The Strasbourg-based office that helps develop Youth Policy and projects across Europe;

[www.coe.int/youth](http://www.coe.int/youth)

### 8. International Council for National Youth Policy(ICNYP)

Vienna-based think tank that helps governments develop their national policies for youth.

[www.icnyp.org](http://www.icnyp.org)

### 9. Organizacion Argentina de Jovenes para las Naciones Unidas (OAJNU)

Youth Group promoting Model UNs, Human Rights education, Intl. Day of Youth etc.

[www.oajnu.org](http://www.oajnu.org)

### 10. Pakistan Youth Organization

General Youth Service and Information platform;

[www.pyo.org.pk](http://www.pyo.org.pk)

### 11. Incidejoven

Promotes sexual health and citizenship to youth of Latin America and the Caribbean;

[www.incidejoven.org](http://www.incidejoven.org)

### 12. Euro-Mediterranean Academy for Young Journalists

Set up by youth following the Euro-Med Youth Parliament to dissolve the climate of hostility and distrust that exists between some Europeans and their Muslim neighbours around the Mediterranean;

[www.emaj-academy.org](http://www.emaj-academy.org)

### 13. Students Supporting Street Kids

Network of UK Students raising money for Street Child organizations they have visited or know about in the South.

[www.sssk.org.uk](http://www.sssk.org.uk)

### 14. OCASA - Youth fighting corruption in Latin America

[www.ocasa.avanza.org.co](http://www.ocasa.avanza.org.co)

### 15. European Youth Forum

Membership organisation for EU National Youth Platforms.

[www.youthforum.org](http://www.youthforum.org)

### 16. Environmental Youth Alliance

A youth driven non-profit organization dedicated to the health of our urban environment, our planet & the wellbeing of its people. By supporting projects that benefit our communities, we support our environment socially as well as ecologically.

[www.eya.ca](http://www.eya.ca)

### 17. United Games International & Global Village Project

An international organisation promoting the values of respect, equality, tolerance and peace. Founded in 1989, UG creates a space for young people to express themselves in a safe environment and exchange experiences.

[www.unitedgames.org](http://www.unitedgames.org) & [www.globalvillageproject.net](http://www.globalvillageproject.net)

### 18. Global Youth Action Network

Facilitates youth participation and intergenerational partnerships in global decision-making; supports collaboration among diverse youth organisations; provides tools, resources, and recognition for positive youth action;

[www.youthlink.org](http://www.youthlink.org)

### 19. ImagineNations™ Group

A global alliance of social entrepreneurs, thought leaders, investors, financial institutions, global brands, media and organisations -working to create innovative, large-scale investment strategies that promote development opportunities for young people (ages 15-29) across the globe;

[www.imagenations.org](http://www.imagenations.org)

### 20. Oxfam International Youth Partnerships

Inspire, Connect, Commit, Change! OIYP is 300 young Action Partners, aged 18-25 committed to a positive, equitable world, and sustainable social change.

[www.iyp.oxfam.org](http://www.iyp.oxfam.org)

### 21. Taking IT Global

Inspire, Inform, Involve: an expanding internet platform for over 200,000 young activists around the world.

[www.takingitglobal.org](http://www.takingitglobal.org)

### 22. UNESCO Youth Activities

Helping to empower young people, reaching out to them, responding to their expectations and ideas, fostering useful and long-lasting skills

[www.unesco.org/youth](http://www.unesco.org/youth)

### 23. UNEP-TUNZA

The UNEP Youth Advisory Board; "TUNZA" means "to treat with care or affection" in Kiswahili. TUNZA's vision is to foster a generation of environmentally conscious citizens, capable of positive action. It produces the TUNZA magazine.

[www.unep.org/tunza/youth](http://www.unep.org/tunza/youth)

### 24. Youth Action for Change

A global network of conscious-minded and self-reliant youth who are committed to bring about positive change in their community and the world at large

[www.youthactionforchange.org](http://www.youthactionforchange.org)

### 25. Youth Action Net & the International Youth Foundation:

World's largest organisation promoting positive youth development;

[www.youthactionnet.org](http://www.youthactionnet.org) & [www.iyfn.net](http://www.iyfn.net)

### 26. Lions Quest

Started in '75, Quest International was the pioneer of Positive Youth Development engaging youth in lifeskills, character building, drug prevention etc.

[www.lions-quest.org](http://www.lions-quest.org)

### 27. The Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA)

Recognizes the potential of young leaders as the best force to address AIDS in their own communities, and empowers them with the knowledge, skills, resources and opportunities they need to scale up and expand their initiatives.

GYCA links young leaders to mentors, funders, scholarships, information, training resources, and political advocacy opportunities to ensure that HIV interventions for young people are relevant and successful.

[www.youthaidscoalition.org/](http://www.youthaidscoalition.org/)

### 28. Global Youth Enterprise Summit

Youth employment grew 0.2% in the past decade while global youth population grew by 10.5%. The Global Youth Enterprise Summit convenes practitioners, donors, educators, youth, private sector and government representatives to share lessons learned, promising practices, and new ideas that create economic opportunities for young people.

[www.youthenterpriseconference.org/](http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org/)

### 29. Build Africa

Unlock the potential of every young African and work towards a vision of a world where every young person can make a difference. Our mission is to empower disadvantaged young people with the knowledge, skills and resources to live life to the full.

[www.icrcharity.com/about/](http://www.icrcharity.com/about/)

### 30. UN Programme for Youth

The focal point on youth within the United Nations. It aims to build an awareness of the global situation of young people and promote the World Programme of Action for Youth.

[www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/mandate.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/mandate.htm)

### 31. www.co-management.info

Youth-created introduction to the most effective way to achieve youth-elder partnerships;

### 32. INJAZ

Driven by belief in the boundless potential of young people, INJAZ prepares Jordanian youth for the job market and provides them with better employment opportunities;

[www.injaz.org.jo](http://www.injaz.org.jo)

### 33. Youth Caucus of the World Summit

On the Information Society Network of youth-led, youth-oriented organisations working in the IT sector;

[www.wsisyouth.org](http://www.wsisyouth.org)

### 34. Youth Save The World

An information site run by young people to enlighten youth on issues that relate to sustainable lifestyles;

[www.savetheworld.com.au](http://www.savetheworld.com.au)

### 35. The Youth Employment Network

An initiative of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan along with the World Bank, ILO and the office to promote initiatives to generate jobs for youth in National Lead Country Action Plans.

[www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/yen/](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/yen/)

### 36. UK paid Gap Year Volunteer Opportunities Information

[www.gapyeardirectory.co.uk](http://www.gapyeardirectory.co.uk)

### 37. Listings of Youth Volunteer opportunities:

[www.idealists.com](http://www.idealists.com) and [www.oneworld.net](http://www.oneworld.net)

### 38. YouthXchange (YXC)

A joint UNEP and UNESCO programme designed to help trainers and individuals to understand and communicate on sustainable lifestyles. See:

[www.youthxchange.net/main/home.asp?quickviewer=9](http://www.youthxchange.net/main/home.asp?quickviewer=9)

### 39. Young People We Care (YPWC)

A youth-led, non-profit organization based in Ghana.

YPWC's mission is to educate, inform, and inspire youth to take action, while providing them with the tools to do so.

[www.ypwc.org](http://www.ypwc.org)

### 40. Consorcio Boliviano de Juventud

An organisation from Bolivia that aims to empower young people to coordinate, promote and execute sustainable social projects in their communities.

[www.conbojuv.org](http://www.conbojuv.org)







## Delegates List

### Afghanistan

Sayed Faheem Egbali  
Wafullah Gran  
Mirwais Latif Mamoon  
Said Munir  
Taher Naim Qaderi  
Fardeen Delair Razban  
**Algeria**  
Belkacem Benchohra  
Ahmed Chentir  
**Argentina**  
Eugenia Capalbo  
Abigail Dinorah Carmio  
Guillermo Eduardo Díaz  
Renzo Horacio Gini  
Juan Ignacio Gonzalez Mazziotti  
Tamara Martinez Maillo  
Veronica Cecilia Mazzucchelli  
Noelia Romina Negri Bartoloni  
Emilio Perez Campanelli  
Guillermo Luis Pleitavino  
Gabriel Valfre

### Armenia

Mari Barseghyan  
Alla Berberyan  
Hasmik Harutyunyan  
Karina Manukyan  
Armen Melkonyan  
**Australia**  
Chelsea Baker  
Cho Bernadette Marisa Chien Ling  
Lluwannee George  
Celeste Jones  
Olivia Kristiana Kilvert  
Holly Anne Lobb  
Kristina Elizabeth Eleanor Martin  
Miranda Mason  
Lisette Danielle Ogg  
Minakshi Jessica Pearce

### Austria

Marlene Maier  
Maria Dorothea Marksteiner  
Katharina Moser  
Gregor Novak  
Eva Pentz  
Katrín Salhenegger  
Lukas Baltzer  
Georg Feiner

### Azerbaijan

Shabnan Almamnadova  
Shahla Aliguliyeva  
Bahrain  
Rashed Ghayeb  
Sayed Adnan Mohamed

### Barbados

Natalee Faith Roberta Aymes  
**Belarus**  
Hanna Balshakova

### Belgium

Veerle Joanna Isabella Vrindts  
Pieter Willem  
Veerle Maria Goossens  
Stéphane F.P. Thys

### Benin

### Godefroy Chaby

### Bolivia

Alicia Arancibia Salazar  
Juan Marcelo Castro Melgar  
Mavie Guarachi Arrosti  
Carolina Guevara de la Reza  
Marco A. Maldonado  
Martha Ruiz Maraz  
Aleyda Simons

### Brazil

Efraim Batista de Souza Neto  
Felipe de Lima Rabello  
Helena Lemos Gomes  
Paulo Ricardo Farine Milani  
Vanessa Maria Brito de Jesus  
Rafael Parra Castilho  
Daniel Perini da Mota Santos  
Ionara Talita Pereira Da Silva

Ramatis Radis Dos Santos  
Cristiane Ribeiro Sanches Siqueira  
**Bulgaria**

Denislav Stoilov  
**Burkina Faso**  
Issaka Herman Traore  
Souleymane Kaboré  
Fatimata Kone  
Yacouba Palais  
Yannick Pitroipa  
Maneguebzanga Justin Sommanda

### Burundi

Janvier Mpfanuguhora  
Evelyne Ndikumana  
Sandra Anny Carelle Ngabirano  
Gloria Nimpundu

### Cambodia

Vichara Chhy  
Sovathya Koun  
Kithyee Ou  
Bopharath Sry  
**Cameroon**

Stanley Achotia  
Ntamack John Billong  
Otto Kehbama Dinga  
Pochi Tmba Matina  
Omballa Awono Philippe

### Canada

Stella Abiyo Mona  
Shakira Abubakar  
Luke Albert  
Siena Sofia Magdalena Anstis  
James Robert Arron  
David Baril  
Ashley Beaudin  
Laura Beckwith  
Alyssa Bistonath  
Catherine Boudreau  
Joanne Toini Cave  
Ouael Chaari  
Julia Chernushevich  
Joanna Marie Dafee  
Sophie Andrée Marie-Eve D'Aoust  
Mélissa-Zoé Désilets  
Guillaume Dubreuil  
Jean-Sébastien Dufresne  
Nika Farahani  
Valerie Fernandes  
Gabriel Fournier Fillion  
Laura Gayle Franceschini  
Kristian Gareau  
Jonathan Gasirabo  
Georg Feiner

Arjun Sarvesh Gupta  
Kanika Gupta  
Autumn Hachey  
Asmaa Hammoudi  
Sebastian Harko  
Gillian Harlos  
Corinne Dominique Havard  
Sandra-Oketayot Hope  
Alain Horé  
Yi-Hsuan Amy Hung  
Marie-Eve Jean  
Farida John  
Tara Ann Jordan  
Yuen Ka Chan  
Alain Katembo  
Annpreet Kaur Mann  
Daniel King  
Cansu Koc  
Dominic Labrie  
Michael Laflour  
Audrey Le Tellier  
Thea Leighton  
Anita Li  
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