

MAP OF PROGRAMMES

FOR ADOLESCENT PARTICIPATION

DURING CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT

SITUATIONS

September 2003

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Introduction

The following 'Map' of activities documents the participation of adolescents in programming in conflict/post-conflict situations world-wide. The map represents the work of a broad spectrum of partners, including NGOs, UN agencies, governments, community leaders, teachers, parents, and most importantly, young people. Also included in the map is a list of youth groups and networks working to engage young people in issues related to adolescent participation during conflict/post-conflict situations.

Why adolescent participation?

Meaningful participation in community life is a most effective way to develop the potential of young people, especially during times of social conflict and crisis. A key element of adolescent participation is the provision of opportunities for young people to express themselves, contributing their voice, opinions and ideas to the social dialogue. Whether the community is a war-torn village or a refugee camp, young people will need encouragement and guidance to develop their potential and contribute to their communities. With adequate support and access to necessary resources, they can become agents for change and provide a foundation for rebuilding lives and communities, contributing to a more just and peaceful society.

In the context of this map, "participation" is understood in a programmatic sense, involving young people as active participants in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of sustainable, community-based initiatives. Young people have demonstrated their capacity to initiate and sustain valuable participatory programmes during times of conflict and have helped to build stable foundations within their communities. Many such initiatives are described in the map which follows.

Information sharing tool

We hope that this "map" will encourage networking, information sharing and collaboration among colleagues working with adolescents in war-affected countries and that it will generate interest in new activities that seek to involve young people's participation. In addition to serving as an information-sharing tool, this mapping exercise will inform and assist the development of "good practices" for adolescent involvement in programme design and implementation, by providing examples of programmes that may serve as role models for replication in other conflict situations.

Programme entries are organized alphabetically by country and youth groups are listed alphabetically by name (this will be adaptable once the information is transferred to a database). In order to facilitate easy access to information, programme entries include the principal contact persons and key core documents and materials which are intended to provide detailed and specific information for additional follow-up.

SECTION ONE

Country Programmes

Country: Afghanistan

Project Title: Adolescent health education and literacy program for Afghan people in Jaghori, Afghanistan

Implementing Partners: Shuhada Organization, supported by the Eleanor Bellows Pillsbury (EBP) Fund

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Julia Matthews
juliam@womenscommission.org

Website: www.womenscommission.org/projects/children/index.html

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

Shuhada Organization is a non-governmental organization (NGO) committed to the welfare and progress of Afghan communities living inside and outside Afghanistan, with special emphasis on the empowerment of women and children.

The need for improved health care is acute. Shuhada runs a hospital in the project area, which provides access to health care services, however the need for community-based adolescent health education remains largely unmet.

Shuhada is currently training 20 young Afghan women in health care services through basic literacy training classes, using adolescent health as a main theme. These women will then educate 750 to 1,200 of their peers in the community, using the knowledge they have gained through their training, in order to expand community awareness about health. Shuhada will also establish a centre in the hospital and enrol 20 trainees to learn about essential adolescent health care.

This project serves 750 to 1,000 adolescent Afghan women.

Country: Afghanistan

Project Title: Child Protection and Reintegration of Children Affected by Armed Conflict in North-eastern Afghanistan

Implementing Partners: Child Fund Afghanistan (CFA)/Christian Children's Fund (CCF)

Funding Partners: UNICEF Afghanistan

Contacts: Mike Wessells
mwessell@rmc.edu

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

This project aims to strengthen community-based processes of child protection and to aid the reintegration of former child soldiers and war-affected young people in the north-eastern provinces of Kunduz, Takhar, and Badakshan. In rural villages affected by decades of armed conflict, displacement, poverty, landmines, and drought, the project constructs with the approval local shuras Child Well-Being Committees (CWBCs) that engage in protection monitoring and facilitate collective planning and action to reduce risks to vulnerable children such as orphans, girls, disabled children, working children, and former child soldiers. The CWBCs consist of approximately 10 people, half of whom are children. Consistent with local gender norms, men and women have their own committees in a participating village. Teenagers play a key role in defining risks, planning how to reduce the risks, implementing steps to improve children's well-being, and evaluating the impact of project activities.

The project activities begin with a child-led process of risk mapping and community mobilization. Groups of 8-10 children (7-12 years of age) and youth (12-18 years of age) draw a map of their village and locate the places that are dangerous or where accidents happen to children. Then they choose the top two risks to young people and present their findings to village adults by means of a role play, which typically evokes keen interest and animated discussion. Adults and young people who show strong interest in helping and who represent different groups in the community then form a CWBC. Initially, the CWBCs focus on reducing physical risks such as open wells, landmines, or lack of public latrines for women. With additional experience and training, however, they also address emotional and social risks such as stigmatization, hopelessness, or continued association of young people with a local commander. The CWBCs also monitor children's well-being and risks by means of a Child Protection and Monitoring Tool developed by Save Alliance with input from many partners.

The CWBCs facilitate planning and action by working with women's groups, youth groups, religious leaders, and other community influentials. Youth participate in the planning and also in project activities such as literacy classes, vocational training, outreach to vulnerable children, quick-impact grants for working on installation of wells or irrigation canals, and community-selected civic works such as school reconstruction or bridge repair. As the national program of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration begins July, 2003, the project will be scaled up and will assist the reintegration of approximately 2,500 children (mainly 14-18-year-olds) associated with fighting forces who have been officially demobilized as well as significant numbers of children who did not participate in the official demobilization but who are re-entering civilian life. To prevent child recruitment, the CWBCs will monitor recruitment at village level and will channel the information into a regional database that can be used by the government and other agencies in efforts to build peace and protect children's rights. Throughout the northeast, CCF/CFA will work with UNICEF to establish regional child protection networks that include CWBCs in many different villages and that build the capacity of the government and district and provincial levels to promote children's well-being.

Country: Afghanistan

Project Title: Youth Millennium Project (YMP)

Implementing Partners: University of British Columbia (UBC)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Lisa Thomas-Tench, Youth Millennium Project,
Faculty of Education, UBC
lisa@ympworld.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The Youth Millennium Project's (YMP) mandate is to engage youth in peace-building projects of their own design. YMP combines this mandate with active research, evaluating the efficacy of global education and peace-building curriculum design in the Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia.

Peace Challenge

Tens of thousands of students around the world have given their time, thought, and effort to community projects of their own design through YMP's six-step peace-building action plan. In 2003, YMP launched Peace Challenge, a new programme for Canadian students to partner with developing nations, and create peace-building projects that benefit both communities. This element of participation is the key to their success as peace leaders.

YMP builds the structure for a peaceful community *before* conflict can arise, by educating youth in peace leadership and empowering them to contribute to international and community development. YMP helps Canadian youth by working with them to study global economic development, and learn by looking outside of their comfort zone by taking on projects with youth partners in developing nations. YMP helps youth in developing nations by empowering them to make decisions that will have a positive impact on their community. All students become better citizens within their own communities and the world community through the YMP experience.

The present year (2003) will be a 'pilot' year for Peace Challenge focussing on Afghanistan. In 2004 the focus will be on a community in Africa. Through yearly expansion the programme will build momentum, engaging more countries in an international network.

Programme goals

Raising awareness about the challenges of being a child in a developing or war-torn country.

Focusing youth in Canada and in Partner Nations to build peace leadership skills, especially during times of conflict, crisis or challenge.
Developing curriculum-based exercises and activities to build youth participation in classrooms; offering teachers best practices in global education initiatives.
Engaging youth to create and take part in peace-building projects.

Country: Albania
Project Title: Partnership in Active Learning (PAL)
Implementing Partner: World Vision Albania

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Judy Moore, Operations Manager
judy_moore@wvi.org

Web site: www.wvi.org
www.child-rights.org

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The Partnership in Active Learning (PAL) project is a social empowerment project which targets teachers and students, training them in selected topics, and providing a non-threatening environment in which to explore innovative educational techniques. Parents and other community members have the opportunity to volunteer their time to support the teachers involved and work with the students. The goal is to strengthen civil society and enhance community awareness in targeted communities by changing attitudes and raising awareness about citizenship and roles in the community. Pre-teenagers ages 10 to 13 are the primary age group involved in the project because they are still forming their world view and in this sense they provide a formative group for strong longer-term impact. The PAL activities provide an effective way to learn about new topics, to apply this knowledge, and to share it with other students and members of the community in a fun and educational way. Teachers are trained in the topics taught including environmental awareness; communications skills; civil rights and responsibilities and personal safety. Each subject is taught for two months. Parents have the opportunity to participate through the support volunteer aspect of the PAL project.

The project has been running for two years. In the first year, 200 students participated, 16 teachers and 16 community volunteers. The numbers for the second year of implementation are approximately the same. Achievements brought about by the project are changes in attitudes and behaviours, an increase in community activism and a growth of critical thinking skills. The result has been empowered and active communities that are making improvements to their environment, making it a more interesting and dynamic place to live. All of these changes have been initiated by the communities themselves.

Country: Angola

Projects Title: Child Protection

Implementing Partners: SCF Norway, CCF, MINARS, Catholic Church, INAC, ADCP, SCF Denmark, SCF USA

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Akhil Iyer, UNICEF Angola
aiyer@unicef.org

Web site :

Core Documents :

Programme Description:

Child-Friendly Spaces

To support the psychosocial recovery of children affected by the conflict, UNICEF Angola has developed child-friendly spaces (CFS) within displaced communities. Child-friendly spaces provide access to basic services, as well as psychosocial support to overcome problems linked to displacement and poverty. The creation and development of child friendly spaces is being carried out in close collaboration with a number of humanitarian agencies working in camps for internally displaced people, and has promoted strong community involvement. Child-friendly spaces have been established within internally displaced communities of Uige, Malange, Huambo, Bie, Bengo, Huila, Benguela and Moxico provinces.

UNICEF's support for child-friendly spaces includes a special focus on training of community groups and activists to implement basic services and the provision CFS kits, with equipment and learning materials, including balls, stationery, toys and tools. The package supports education, recreation, preventive mother/child health, psychosocial support and nutrition.

Adolescents are especially encouraged to take the lead and to participate in establishing and organizing activities within child friendly spaces. For example, they help organize psychosocial activities for younger children, such as sports, dance, songs and recreational activities. Adolescents are also the beneficiaries of special education or recreational programmes for youth, including landmine and HIV/AIDS awareness, sports competitions and cultural activities.

The Family Tracing and Reunification Programme (FTRP)

The Family Tracing and Reunification Programme (FTRP) is being implemented nationwide, to support family reunification of at least 30,000 out of an estimated 100,000 separated/unaccompanied children nationwide, including former child soldiers. The programme works through a network of local government officials, national and

international NGOs, churches, CBOs, and local leaders. Adolescents are involved in the process, both as beneficiaries and as facilitators of training and information dissemination. Child protection networks have been set up to address the needs of vulnerable groups of children, including children who were members of fighting forces. Following the urgent work of family tracing and reunification, the programme will address other child protection needs and the networks will be expanded to include youth groups, and cultural and recreational activities.

Country: Angola

Projects Title: Education for Life and Peace Friends for Learning Initiative

Implementing Partners: Ministry of Education and Culture, Catholic Church (Dom Bosco- Dondo, Dom Bosco-Luena, JRS, Caritas-Malange, Caritas-Kuito), LWF, Save The Children-Norway, Save The Children-Denmark, CCF, AAEA, ADPP, AJAV, Kwatoco-Aid, ADC, AADC, GAC, AJAV, ADAC, AADMS, ADCP.

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Akhil Iyer, UNICEF Angola
aiyer@unicef.org

Web site :

Core Documents :

Programme Description:

The Friends for Learning initiative is part of the Education for Life and Peace Programme (ELP) created after the April 4, 2002 cease fire in Angola. The ELP initiative accelerates children's basic education by organizing small informal groups for learning and mobilizing educational volunteers to work with children in need. ELP uses displaced teachers and mobilizes youth to provide children and adolescents with learning opportunities. The Friends for Learning Initiative mobilizes literate adolescents to teach other children and adolescents, using a "learning through playing" approach. Peer educators identify relevant issues for learning activities. Topics addressed include life skills, mine awareness, HIV/AIDS prevention and youth-friendly health, literacy and numeracy.

Summary of Activities:

- The Education for Life and Peace programme mobilizes and trains adolescent leaders as educational volunteers. The volunteers are actively involved in promoting enrolment in the programme.
- Adolescents are actively involved in periodically evaluating the EPL programme, identifying constraints, achievements, and lessons learned documenting the initiative. Both the adolescent leaders and participants monitor their achievements in learning groups.

Country: Angola

Projects Title: Girls' Education

Implementing Partners: Municipal delegation of education of Viana (Luanda province), Kaala (Huambo province), Tombwa (Namibe province) and Baia Farta (Benguela province)
NGOs: ADPP, UAJACA, and Catholic parishes.

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Akhil Iyer, UNICEF Angola
aiyer@unicef.org

Web site :

Core Documents :

Programme Description:

The Girls' Education project works at the grass-roots level to determine the barriers to the girls' participation in educational opportunities. This has been achieved, in part, through participatory studies on girls' educational vulnerability. Adolescent leaders have been involved throughout the process, organizing focus groups and conducting interviews to identify the causes of girls' exclusion from education and the high drop-out rate.

Adolescent girls have also been mobilized as part of the project, helping to identify the content of life skills educational material for both formal and non-formal learning groups. Girls' participation was also sought to design and carry out a local campaign to sensitize families and traditional leaders to promote girls' enrolment in primary school.

Country: Angola

Projects Title: HIV/AIDS and Adolescent Health

Implementing Partners: UNICEF and national NGOs (PNLS, DPSP, GOAL, PSI, Prazedor, UAJCA, CBA, Solcicampo, FISH, JAS, AALSIDA)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Akhil Iyer, UNICEF Angola
aiyer@unicef.org

Web site :

Core Documents :

Programme Description:

In Angola, UNICEF is working with local youth-run NGOs to encourage young people to make HIV prevention part of their lives and carry the message into their communities. The pilot project trains young peer-to-peer counsellors and educators in three provinces. The 20 NGOs participating are mentored by three larger and more experienced national NGOs to assist in the design and implementation of innovative approaches to HIV/AIDS education.

In one case, the national NGO Prazedor, run almost entirely by young women, produced mini-dramas in local languages for the radio. Within three months they were able to reach nearly 3,000 school children with their message about HIV risk and prevention. In addition, they have established a youth information centre in Lubango and work alongside the military and police. In 2002, Prazedor will assist in pilot-testing a community-based voluntary testing and counselling project.

The Union of Angolan Rural Adolescents (UAJACA), a youth NGO in Huambo province, has conducted 80 training sessions in nine health clinics, 10 training sessions for truck drivers, five debates among military personnel, and six radio broadcasts. These activities are managed entirely by the young. For example, on the outskirts of Huambo where truck drivers take breaks between long hauls, young activists speak to the large crowds of truckers about HIV/AIDS prevention.

UAJACA has also created core groups of truck drivers and military personnel, totalling 75 individuals, to serve as peer educators within their community. Presentations are held in Portuguese and Umbundu. UAJACA works with the police, the military, the medical community and schools in the fight against AIDS.

In Lobito and Benguela provinces, youth groups are gearing up to promote HIV prevention among diverse populations, such as female sex workers, street children, young

people out of school, church groups, health workers and school teachers. The leaders and members of each youth group will be involved in all stages of the project, participating both in the formulation of a survey and as field workers in the collection of data.

Young people have been directly involved in the planning and implementation of youth and community-based activities, including:

- Three national youth NGOs have been trained in HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention and are now mentoring 20 additional youth-based NGOs.
- Youth NGOs have created plans of action for HIV/AIDS awareness activities held in the community, on a daily basis.
- Young people have requested and received training on administration of projects, project management, interpersonal communication and social communication.
- Young people have initiated innovative projects, such as Operation STOP and raps on HIV/AIDS.

Young people in Youth Information and Recreation Centres have initiated the following:

- Youth leadership on the Executive Board of Youth Community Centres, with a majority of votes.
- Youth working directly with the Ministry of Youth and Sport in the creation of Youth Centres, and advocacy surrounding HIV/AIDS awareness.
- Youth active in the running and programming of the centre, for example, identifying the programme and scheduling of activities.
- Youth involved in all aspects of programme implementation within the Information and Recreation Centres, including life skills training.

Country: Angola

Project Title: Initiatives for Angolan Children and Youth Futures

Implementing Partners: Christian Children’s Fund (CCF)/Angola

Funding Partners: USAID/Displaced Children and Orphans Fund

Contacts: Mike Wessells
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Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

This project aimed to improve the psychosocial well-being of children, particularly youth between the ages of 12 and 18 years, following the re-eruption of war in 1998. The objectives of the project, which concentrated on Benguela, Huila, Luanda, Uige, and Moxico, were to reinforce key adults' (parents, teachers, and community leaders) knowledge of children's and adolescents' psychosocial needs; to improve adolescents' social integration into the community; and to influence public policy regarding the impact of violence on children and adolescents. The project used participatory methodologies in which youth formed clubs and developed their own goals, activities, and means of addressing their problems in living.

The project mobilized youth, who often reported feeling marginalized in their villages, to form youth groups that were oriented toward community service projects and developing activities that addressed youths’ self-expressed needs. Over 200 youth groups, many of which included both girls and boys, were formed and participated in dialogues with CCF provincial trainers about issues such as HIV/AIDS, youth aggression, poverty, and relations with parents, among others. Following these dialogues, the youth decided the purpose and planned the activities of the group. Many chose to raise community awareness about youth issues such as HIV/AIDS through methods such as community drama. Others participated in community development projects such as school construction or the building of a community playground where youth interacted with and supported younger children. Because no schools existed in Angola for adolescents, the project developed literacy classes at the request of youth. Over 1500 youth, over half of whom were women, participated in these classes. On a smaller scale, the project also provided vocational skills training and opportunity to participate in micro-credit activities. To complement the youth development activities, the project provided short trainings for community-selected adults regarding adolescents, the impact of war on adolescents, and how to support adolescents. Youth reported that as a result of the project they had achieved meaningful roles within their communities and coped more effectively with the life issues they had identified.

Following the cessation of war in Angola, CCF now supports youth by providing vocational skills and developing life skills such as communication, constructive planning and organization of one's life, and non-violent conflict resolution. Youth work in groups to address ongoing issues such as violence, HIV/AIDS, prostitution, drugs, and crime, thereby empowering them to meet their most significant life challenges.

Country: Angola

Projects Title: Mine Risk Education (MRE)

Implementing Partners: Grupo de Apoio Crianca (GAC) – Huambo and Bie;
Club de Jovens (Huila) and Accao Desenvolvimento Cristal (ADC) – Kuando Kubango

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Akhil Iyer, UNICEF Angola
aiyer@unicef.org

Web site :

Core Documents :

Programme Description:

Since 1998, UNICEF has supported Mine Risk Education (MRE) in Angola. Participating NGOs and community-based organizations have encouraged adolescents to actively participate in mine awareness activities.

The main component of adolescent participation in the programme is through the training of ‘Mini Instructors’, between the age of 12 and 18. The Mini Instructors participate in a diverse range of social mobilization activities. A network of active youth members has been created, engaging with local communities, developing education programs for the prevention of mine accidents, and promoting youth-to-youth awareness. Although Mini Instructors do not receive financial remuneration, they are active members of the NGOs and are involved in all aspects of the programme’s execution and management. Their involvement in the continued growth and development of the MRE programme ensures that the most appropriate tools for reaching youth are incorporated. Mini Instructors use theatre, dance, puppetry and small group interviews to engage with their peers. An advantage of the youth-to-youth approach is that young people are much more in tune with the needs and problems encountered by their peers. When elaborating a new dance routine for an awareness raising session on the dangers of landmines, the Mini Instructors will ensure that the music is up-to-date and will encourage peer-involvement.

Mini Instructors have the opportunity to participate in formal and informal training in social mobilization and, as a result of such training opportunities, now incorporate HIV/AIDS awareness raising into their programme of activities.

Since the project’s inception in 1998, a number of ‘Mini Instructors’ have become full-time staff of participating NGOs.

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Project Title: Community Development Program

Implementing Partners: United Methodist Committee On Relief-NGO (UMCOR-NGO)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Tracey Shissler, UMCOR
tshissler@umcor.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The USDA funded Community Development Program is divided into two components, Youth Orientated Programming and Youth Leadership.

Youth Orientated Programming Component

The program goal for Youth Orientated Programming is to support the positive growth and development of Bosnia and Herzegovina youth and support the empowerment for social change through the provision of grants for youth programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina that support youth empowerment, peace process, and ethnic reconciliation. A total of twenty-one grants have been awarded to thirteen local organizations for implementation of the youth oriented projects.

Youth Leadership Component

The overall goal of Youth Leadership is to encourage young people to develop personal commitment to improve their communities and participate in democratic processes and peace-building. The objectives aim to provide capacity-building to eight groups of youth in different communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to encourage and support youth in the utilization of their ideas and creative talents in designing and implementing small community projects while promoting peace and reconciliation among youth and a respect for diversity. The capacity-building trainings were carried out in the period from October 2000 to March 2001. The basic training program, which includes team building conflict transformation and effective communication skills, problem solving, leadership skills, needs assessment and project proposal writing, reached 118 youth from various communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Upon completion of the training program the youth groups were engaged in preparation of small-scale community-based projects. This was also an opportunity to engage the knowledge and skills gained at the training programs in projects that attempted to address some key community needs. In the period from April to December 2001, a total of

fifteen small scale community projects have been implemented directly benefiting over 1,600 beneficiaries and indirectly benefiting the entire communities where the projects were implemented. Four advanced training programs were organized for the representatives of the eight youth groups including the following topics: Internet, Public Relations, HIV/AIDS, Civil Society Development, Organizational Development, Networking, and Fundraising. There were 125 youth who participated in these training sessions.

Most of the informal youth groups were formed in association with the partnering of local NGOs and so a major benefit of the Youth Leadership Project has been to promote and empower youth to become directly engaged in the design and implementation of the projects. Through these young people the NGOs have been strengthened with a new cadre of committed and enthusiastic volunteers with a better understanding of the role and purpose of the NGOs in their community, as well as the importance of active involvement of citizens in resolving community needs. The youth initiative in Kupres resulted in the formal registration of a youth centre in the community.

Country: Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro

Project Title: Summer Camp Programme

Implementing Partners: Global Children's Organization (GCO)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Diana Malin
gco@globalchild.org

Web site: www.globalchild.org

Core Documents:

Programme Description :

Global Children's Organization (GCO) brings together children who have suffered the horrors of war, community violence, hatred, or intolerance, and with the help of multinational volunteers, develops peace and reconciliation. Since 1992, GCO has reached out to children caught in the cross-fire of war and helped them to develop friendships and build trust across cultural boundaries. Even in the face of violence, children's spirits and hearts can be restored and they can again have hope.

For the children who have suffered in the Balkans, GCO has regularly held peace-building summer camps since 1993. The camps incorporate educational activities and reinforce non-violent conflict resolution. Children of varying ethnic and religious backgrounds—Muslims, Catholics, Jews, and Orthodox, many refugees and orphans, have come from Bosnia, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Kosovo, Republika Srpska and other regions to find refuge at GCO's island camp off the Adriatic coast of scenic Croatia.

In 2002 there were approximately 120 children who took part in the summer camps. There were about 40 volunteers from Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia and Montenegro, and 40 from the United States. Twenty-five of the in-country volunteers ranged in age from 14-22.

Country: Burundi

Project Title: Emergency Education and Psychosocial Support for Children and Adolescents Project

Implementing Partners: International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Amy Wachtel, International Rescue Committee:
amyw@theirc.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The Burundi Emergency Education and Psychosocial Support for Children and Adolescents Project began in 2000. It serves internally displaced persons and returnees through seven youth centres in Bujumbura Rural and 8 youth centres in Burundi.

The program focuses on peer education, peace education and health, using the youth centers as hubs for training and activities. To promote a sense of solidarity and to encourage democratic participation and leadership, most of the activities of the youth center are conducted and sustained through the creation of clubs. When developing the program, peer educators and youth club members utilized participatory evaluation tools to conduct needs assessments among their peers. They then planned their own programs, and continue to meet on a weekly basis to discuss and plan activities that are carried out in their communities, in the market and at school. Youth are also members of youth centre coordinating committees, along with prominent members of the community, such as religious leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and parents.

Specific activities include:

- Literacy/numeracy training (incorporating life skills themes such as nutrition, peace-building; also small libraries available to youth)
- Non-formal education, including sports, drama, music
- Vocational skills training
- Interest based clubs (organized and led by youth) such as drumming
- Peer education curriculum (on adolescent health and peace building)
- Radio shows for youth

Country: Cambodia

Project Title: Mine Risk Education Education for Children in Cambodia

Implementing Partners: UNICEF Cambodia in collaboration with World Education and the Ministry of Education. Cambodia Mine Action Authority (CMAA), and Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC).

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Mr. Plong Chhaya
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Mr. Julien Temple
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Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The objective of the Mine Risk Education (MRE) for Children in Cambodia is to reduce landmine/UXO accidents involving Cambodian children through MRE programmes, and child-to-child outreach.

In pursuit of the objective, the following activities will be undertaken;

- Coordination with CMAA, MoEYS, and other mine action organizations, regarding definition of national Mine Risk Education (MRE) standards;
- Provision of MRE training to teachers, student teachers, and contract teachers in target provinces;
- Continued development, inclusion, and evaluation of MRE in primary school curriculum;
- Mobilization of parents and community around MRE issues, through existing institutions and committees (PTAs, VDCs, and Cluster Committees);
- Use of child-to-child outreach programmes to reach out of school children, and youth;
- Promotion of activities surrounding International Mine Awareness Day;
- MRE program for out-of-school youth integrated with other community MRE programmes in the target areas;
- Facilitation of regular technical group refresher meetings/training for teachers;
- Yearly workshops on MRE activities for children;
- Encouragement of community participation in MRE activities;
- Coordination of activities on National Mine Awareness Day.

Outputs:

200,000 primary school students in affected areas receive MRE through classroom activities and service learning projects;
45 Provincial and District MoEYS MRE specialists/trainers and 120 cluster Directors monitor and evaluate MRE activities in primary schools;
5,000 primary teachers teach MRE using child centred teaching techniques;
MRE training given to 4,000 student teachers;
MRE curriculum regularly revised and developed;
40,000 out-of-school youths in the affected areas learn about mine risks from primary school students and teachers;
At least 50,000 primary school students involved in outreach activities to encourage out-of-school peers to adopt safer behaviour in relation to mines and UXO;
Cluster resource centre managers carry out supplementary mine awareness activities with school and out-of-school youths;
School Committees and Parents Associations support the outreach activities;
Exhibition and performances prepared for International Mine Awareness Day.

Beneficiaries:

The main beneficiaries of the programme are children and youth living in highly affected regions. Secondary beneficiaries will be the teachers, school administrators and members of clusters and village-level committees who will gain new Mine Risk Education skills and experiences.

Country: Colombia

Project Title: Children's Movement for Peace

Implementing Partners: UNICEF Colombia

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Nydia Quiroz, UNICEF Colombia
nquiroz@unicef.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The Children's Movement for Peace was born in 1996, as the result of a massive mobilisation of young people in Colombia. Children wanted their opinion to be heard and so they organised a nation-wide referendum. Almost 3 million children and adolescents between the ages of 7 and 18 came out to vote for peace. Since then the Movement has gained the support of numerous national and local institutions.

Activities include conflict resolution and non-violence promotion in schools. In 2002, the Movement gained strength, taking an active part in preparations for the presidential elections. Also in 2001, the Children's Movement for Peace supported the week-long annual campaign for peace involving thousands of people in Bogotá and in the municipalities of Sibate and Marinilla.

Country: Colombia

Project Title: Return to Happiness Programme

Implementing Partner: UNICEF

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Nidya Quiroz, UNICEF TACRO
nquiroz@unicef.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The “Return to Happiness” programme was started in 1996 in Colombia by UNICEF. It is designed to provide urgent mass interventions to children affected by violence. Integral to this programme is the empowerment of the families and communities in facilitating the psychosocial recovery process of the children. Adolescent volunteers, supervised by teacher volunteers, are the key instruments in implementing this programme. Teachers and youth volunteers facilitate the psychosocial recovery of children.

The objective of the ‘Return to Happiness’ programme is to empower the community to better handle violence and stress. In addition, the children learn to deal with their fears and their past experiences, and also learn to face the future with a brighter outlook. Adolescents are considered to be the best intermediaries for the psychosocial recovery of other children because of the natural bond between brothers and sisters in a family environment.

Programme activities comprise:

- Specialised support and self-help groups for adolescents, following a daily session with younger children.

- Recreational activities and games, including a “knapsack of dreams” provided to volunteers, with a doll family, puppets, wooden toys and books.

- Using plays and songs, composed by local people, as therapy.

- Developing a culture of peace and tolerance by inventing stories with positive and hopeful endings.

- Numerous activities supervised by adolescents, including: art exhibitions by children on subjects of peace and tolerance; the development of reconciliation skills through discussions on non-violence; attending community peace concerts; assisting the Red Cross in marking mined areas; the creation of fish breeding ponds; collecting waste from banana plantations in Urabá for recycling and transformation into slabs and roof tiles of the huts of those displaced.

- Children participants share their psychosocial recovery in games and discussions with other children affected by disasters, such as earthquakes and mudslides.

Country: Croatia

Project Title: Revitalisation of war-affected communities

Implementing Partners: International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Amy Wachtel, International Rescue Committee
amyw@theirc.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

Created in 2001, the Revitalisation of War-Affected Communities project addresses the interests of returnees, mainly youth from 16 to 26 years of age. The project includes the municipalities of Dvor, Okucani, Djulovac, Pakrac, and Obrovac.

The Revitalisation of War-Affected Communities project is fully designed by youth who participated in focus groups throughout the development of the program. Young people choose the type of community projects to undertake, as well as the kind of training that is most beneficial to them.

Specific activities include:

- Capacity-building training sessions
- Grassroots civic group coordination meetings
- Participating in a competitive grant process
- Arranging/constructing community spaces
- Organising sports/recreational activities
- Rehabilitating village community centres
- Rehabilitating community infrastructure
- Taking computer lessons and extending training to other community members
- Organising and taking excursions
- Learning and performing traditional folk music

Country: East Asia and Pacific Region (EAPR)

Project: Children Caught in Conflicts

Implementing Partners: Child Workers of Asia (CWA); Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS); Centre for Population and Policy Studies (CPPC); Asian Research Centre for Migration (ARCM); Psychosocial Trauma and Human Rights Programme; DfID; CIDA

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Bo Viktor Nylund, UNICEF EAPRO,
bvnylund@unicef.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

Though many projects address the needs or analyse the impact of conflict on boys and girls, boys and girls have rarely had an opportunity to participate meaningfully in those very same projects. The project “Children Caught in Conflicts” will enhance the knowledge-base on children affected by armed conflict in the East Asia and Pacific region, focussing on Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand (Burmese children in border areas). This is a participatory study, with children and youth as key informants. Young people will also participate in information gathering and analysis, as well as the process of developing protection strategies for children in their communities. This project will provide an opportunity to develop, test and refine methodology for systematic assessment of the impact of armed conflict on children.

Country: Eritrea

Project Title: Mine Risk Education (MRE)

Implementing Partners: UNICEF

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Lejla Susic, UNICEF Eritrea
lsusic@unicef.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

In Eritrea, UNICEF has established partnerships with a number of international NGOs to conduct mine risk education within displaced and host communities in Gash Barka and Debub. A milestone in mine risk education is the active involvement of children's theatre groups. For example, the Sewit Children's Theatre group was commissioned to tour communities providing landmine awareness. The group visits schools and community halls to educate communities on the risks of mines and unexploded ordnance.

Country: Eritrea
Project Title: Programme to fight AIDS
Implementing Partners: UNICEF

Funding Partners:

Contacts:

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description :

UNICEF, along with UNAIDS, is collaborating with the Government of Eritrea in a programme to fight AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. UNICEF support includes the introduction of life skills for an HIV/AIDS education programme. As part of the programme, UNICEF trained a group of displaced young people to act as HIV/AIDS educators; they now travel from camp to camp and in host communities, training their peers in HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.

Country: Ethiopia

Project Title: Emergency Education and Psychosocial Support for Eritrean Kunama Children and Adolescents in Ethiopia

Implementing Partners: International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Amy Wachtel, International Rescue Committee
amyw@their.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The Emergency Education and Psychosocial Support for Eritrean Kunama Children and Adolescents in Ethiopia was established in 2000. It operates in the Tigray region for Kunama refugees and aims to provide informal education and recreational activities for children and adolescents that address their psychosocial and cognitive needs. Young people actively choose the programme activities and are trained to be youth leaders for their peers and for younger children in the camps.

Specific activities include:

- Daily operation of activities in a youth centre
- Training workshops for youth leaders
- Youth leaders preparing and implementing structured activities for children (such as drawings, group discussions, theatre, music, sports, recreation and ad-hoc basic educational activities)
- Sports and recreation activities
- Non-formal education (including literacy and numeracy, and presentations on topics such as health, civics, human rights, and conflict resolution)
- A research project investigating the psychosocial well-being of Kunama youth

Country: Ethiopia

Project Title: Mine risk education for children and adolescents in the most mine/UXO affected regions of Tigray and Afar

Implementing Partners: UNICEF and Rehabilitation and Development Organisation (RaDO), in Coordination with the Bureau of Disaster Preparedness and Prevention, and Labour and Social Affairs of Tigray and Afar regions. The UNDP Mine Action Team and the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO) are also collaborating partners

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Bantirgu H. Mariam, UNICEF Ethiopia
bhmariam@unicef.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The project combines a child-to-child approach with a community-based approach. The participation of community groups, including Imams, clan leaders, listening groups, volunteers, and taskforces composed of members of local government, associations of community groups and religious organizations, makes the project highly community-based. Radio programmes and drama clubs for children are also components of the programme. As a result of the programme, there has been a decline in casualties in the community. The project was later expanded to include HIV/AIDS awareness as a component of risk education.

The activities undertaken from November 2001 to July 2002 include the following:

- 690 child instructors were trained in nearly 70 schools;
- Nearly 80,000 out-of-school children and 44,000 school children were provided with mine risk education;
- Over 90,000 adults were sensitized;
- 68 school clubs and 445 listening groups for radio forum were created,
- 15-minute weekly radio sensitization programme broadcast over a two year period;
- Data on mine/UXO victims was collected on 56 victims (43 injured survivors and 13 deceased);
- Location of 409 mine/UXO devices were identified and marked, of which 154 were antipersonnel, 33 anti-tank, 187 UXO and 35 fuse.

Country: Georgia

Project Title: Human Right's Youth Project

Implementing Partners: World Vision International Georgia, World Vision Germany, local NGO's, including UMCOR and Horizonti

Funding Partners: European Union

Contacts: nancy_archer@wvi.org
jason_evans@wvi.org

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

Violence, bloodshed, displacement and hate have characterized the last decade in Georgia and the Caucasus region. In the southern Georgian regions of Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli, bordering Armenia and Azerbaijan, there is an urgent need for intervention in the lives of its minority youth, including minority ethnic groups to increase tolerance for difference and break the cycle of segregation, distrust and misunderstanding. World Vision International in Georgia, together with World Vision Germany have created a three year project to develop and implement effective national measures to combat discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origins. The primary goal is to develop and implement effective national measures to combat discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origins.

Other related goals include providing an opportunity for youth participation in discussion of these measures, so that policies may be created through the dialogue and involvement of the youth themselves. It is hoped that through communication and understanding, these youths will have the capacity to identify themselves with those from other backgrounds, be included as contributing members of society, experience a greater tolerance for difference, and even begin to celebrate it.

By creating community centres where youth from various ethnic and religious backgrounds can interact and be participants in a structured environment, World Vision hopes to promote inclusion and combat the regional trend towards the ethnicization of socio-economic conflict.

The project will offer the following activities to youth, which will promote child/youth participation:

- Civic awareness classes, which may consist of discussion surrounding the plight of females living in villages, including kidnapping, forced marriage and women's health education.

- Arts and creativity classes to improve communication, enhance mutual understanding and provide an opportunity for self-expression and an environment of openness and freedom of speech.
- Georgian language courses and discussions about democracy, human rights & gender equality.
- Sports programs, competitions and cultural festivals to promote a multi-ethnic Georgia
- Small business & computing training as required

The three-year project will target the following groups:

- 900-1600 Georgian male & female nationals, from various ethnic backgrounds between the ages of 12-20
- Indirect beneficiaries include the educators and sports trainers, police, local administrators & the Ministry of Education & Sport
- Society at large through increased social harmony

The greatest anticipated challenge will be the coordination of so many youth groups from different backgrounds who come with varied expectations and perceptions of the problems and potential solutions.

Country: Georgia

Project Title: Youth Houses: Sukhumi and Tbilisi

Implementing Partners: United Methodist Committee On Relief-NGO (UMCOR-NGO), USAID

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Tracey Shissler, UMCOR
tshissler@umcor.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

Ongoing hostilities in Abkhazia (the north-western autonomous region of Georgia), following 18 months of armed ethnic conflict in Georgia, resulted in the destruction of homes and schools and shattered the lives of the region's inhabitants. Ethnic Abkhaz remained in the territory (about 17 percent of the original population), while ethnic Georgians fled to Georgia. Abkhazia is now isolated, its borders closed to the world pending a political settlement of the conflict. Many Georgians who once lived a pleasant country life in the sub-tropical climate of Abkhazia are now living in cramped, dirty hotels in Tbilisi and other cities, away from the gardens they once tended. Friends and families have been separated and are living in an environment of hopelessness and poverty. The Youth Houses were created to give hope to the children, to build a better future for the region.

The Youth House project was designed to provide a safe environment for youth between the ages of 10 and 16 to enjoy extra-curricular and academic activities, receive psychological assistance for post-war trauma, and to promote community relations, expanding possibilities for all youth in the region. There are now 4 youth houses: two youth houses in Abkhazia, one in Sukhumi (since 1998) and one in Ochamchira (2001); one in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi (1998); and one in Zugdidi (1999). The Youth Houses offer classes after school in English, computer training, art, music, journalism and dance. The Youth Houses each have teachers as well as psychologists on staff. Psychologists work in close cooperation with the teachers to identify problems, track the progress of the youth, and offer psychosocial counseling on an individual and group basis, including play therapy. The Youth Houses assist the youth in creating and maintaining recreational clubs and activities. Different clubs have been created to accommodate the demands by the youth for increased activities. Young people enrolled in the journalism section, for example, work in cooperation with journalist consultants to publish their own monthly Youth House newspapers.

The participants are vulnerable youth from diverse categories – internally displaced persons, national/ethnic minorities, and orphans and youth from the public school system who do not normally have access to the opportunities offered at the Youth House. In this manner, the project avoids the "ghettoization" of any particular group of adolescents and also fosters understanding between diverse groups to eliminate stereotyping.

One of Youth House project's key objectives has been to provide training to local managers to develop the Youth Houses into independent, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The registration of Tbilisi and Sukhumi Youth Houses as independent and self-sustaining local NGOs has been an indicator of the significant success of the Youth House project. Under the current sub-grant agreements with each of the four Youth House NGO partners, UMCOR continues to provide assistance to increase the internal and external capacity of each respective Youth House. The management staff of the Youth Houses are working with the respective communities to identify target beneficiaries, as well as to help establish links with local and international organizations. Community support is essential to the success of the project and participation is strongly encouraged. To date, parents and other adult volunteers have contributed their services to special events, and a Volunteer Parents Association has been established. United Methodist Church volunteer teams as well as individual volunteers from the USA spend a considerable amount of time at the Tbilisi and Zugdidi Youth Houses teaching classes, conducting seminars on health and other issues, helping club activities and leading field trips.

Country: Guinea

Project Title: Refugee Education Program

Implementing Partners: International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Amy Wachtel, International Rescue Committee:
amyw@theirc.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

IRC has been providing services to Liberian refugees since 1991 and to Sierra Leonean refugees since 1992, including formal education, sexual and gender-based violence services, and tracing and family reunification of separated refugee children. The goal of the youth-focused programs in Guinea (started in 1998) is to increase the participation of adolescents in youth in health, education, literacy, and employment activities.

In order to make the program participatory from its inception, youth focus groups determined the needs of young people and develop strategies to address those needs, according to priority and availability of resources. Youth leadership structures now take the lead in moving the programme activities forward, organising meetings to review progress on a regular basis. Young people design and implement peer education programmes, counselling, mobilisation, and advocacy in their respective communities.

One of the unique components of the Guinea programs is the young women's social clubs. Through the youth-led needs assessments, many girls expressed a desire to learn more about adolescent health issues, but were too timid to hold discussions in a mixed classroom with boys. The girls social clubs were created to provide girls a space to learn about health and gender issues, but also to be encouraged to learn, express themselves artistically and intellectually, and develop leadership and problem solving skills. Young men's social clubs were included later when boys expressed an interest in learning new skills and fostering the sense of camaraderie integral to the social clubs.

Activities are primarily carried out via social clubs, and include the following:

- Health education (health talks on STI/HIV/AIDS in schools and camps, adolescent health and Gender Based Violence (GBV) awareness and counselling)
- Peer education (awareness lectures and discussions on important topics)

Sports and recreation activities

Vocational skills training such as tailoring, drafting, secretarial and computer sciences

Language courses in French and English

Formal and non-formal education

Country: Honduras

Project Title: “Sports for Life”

Implementing Partners: UNICEF Honduras, the National Football Association, city and district governments and national management of sports facilities.

Funding Partners UNICEF

Contacts: Alison Qualter-Berna
aqualter@unicef.org

Website: www.unicef.org

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

In partnership with city and district governments, national management of sports facilities and the national football association, UNICEF Honduras developed ‘Sports for Life,’ a programme geared to children and adolescents living in the surrounding neighbourhoods of Honduras’ major cities. The primary objective of the programme is to increase the participation of young people through developing sports activities and sports training programmes. Through these programmes, UNICEF and partners hope to reduce the number of school drop-outs, to promote basic messages for preventing HIV/AIDS and protect young people against sexual exploitation, hazardous labour and abuse.

‘Sports for Life’ was conceived to promote sport as a healthy alternative and positive lifestyle for young people, as well as to promote the basic rights of young people and ensure their involvement in their own development and well-being. The programme began with the creation of 40 soccer teams classified into 2 categories, ages 7-11 and 12-15. One condition of participating in the ‘Sports for Life’ programme is that the young people who have been a part of the programme, must then assist other youth in formal education centres during and after sports practices and games.

‘Sports for Life’ contributes to physical and mental well-being of young people by:

- Reducing the number of school drop-outs
- Reducing membership in gangs
- Assisting with family integration
- Improving the health of child and adolescent populations
- Reducing the incidence of HIV/AIDS infection among young people

Country: India (northeast): Manipur

Projects Title: Community Programme for Young Survivors of Torture

Implementing Partners: CORE

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Anna Pinto
coremanipur@vsnl.com

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

Within the Community Programme for Young Survivors of Torture, the children's group acts as a peer counselling group, receiving and imparting information on children's right to protection and development. The children's group is active in documenting incidences of torture and in organizing an annual public event in collaboration with the parent organization, CORE and the International Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture (IRCT) on June 26 each year.

Goals and Activities:

Establish services and psychosocial support for the specific health needs of youth, women and children who have survived torture in State detention and interrogation centres.

Develop a Manual for Training of Trainers for support to torture survivors, using local, regional, international experiential inputs.

Improve the capacity of CORE to develop and monitor a special programme addressing the particular needs of torture survivors.

Initiate a training programme for health workers in private and public health services – modern and traditional – on support for torture survivors.

Initiate systematic documentation of torture as practised in Manipur and the specifics of the individual beneficiaries so that the information can be used in their legal support, sensitisation and advocacy work

Country: India (northeast): Manipur

Projects Title: “Creation of the land” in the language of the indigenous Meitei “Leisemba Manipur”

Implementing Partners: CORE

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Anna Pinto
coremanipur@vsnl.com

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The project aims to involve Manipur’s indigenous children and youth from various districts, communities and socio-economic categories, in a year long programme of activities developed by them. The goal of these activities is to encourage young people to collectively envision Manipur, as they would like to see it in ten to twenty years. The children and youth are to embark on a journey of dreams that encompass every sphere of their lives – family, communities and society, governance, sustainable development issues, the economy, environment and biodiversity, human rights, education, health, media, culture, music, dance, fashion and food security, in a “Manipur of their creation”.

The project is an exercise in implementing the right to participation of the child in a situation where the existing adult world, with multiple unresolved conflicts, has failed them repeatedly. It is a pilot initiative to meaningfully involve indigenous children and youth in public discourse, and demonstrate that indigenous peoples can offer a constructive alternative in governance issues. At the end of the year, the children will present their vision – *Manipur imagined* – to law-makers, academics, writers, artists, bureaucrats, technocrats, media-persons and traditional leaders in a multi-media event they will create together, including sports, music, movement (dance), *couture* and food.

A youth group was established in July 2001, called the CORE Network of Indigenous Children and Youth. The group has an ongoing seminar on issues of armed conflict and torture of youth. Members of the network participated in the first National Workshop on Children and Armed Conflict. Members presented their project experience during one of the substantive sessions of the workshop.

Children also have been organising outreach programmes to other children impacted by crisis, including during the communal violence in Gujarat and during the floods in Manipur. Programmes are implemented by the children and young adults, with support from senior management and programme staff of CORE. Members also participate in

local trainings organized by other NGOs on different subjects and skill development according to their interests.

CORE has worked in partnership with children and young people who are sexually abused and exploited, and who abuse narcotics or alcohol. These children have been trained in basic human rights concepts and principles, with a focus on the Conventions on the Rights of the Child and on the elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. They have conducted extensive research into issues concerning youth.

CORE's supplementary report to the Government of India's report of 1998, to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, was prepared in collaboration with children. Adolescents, provided substantiating newspaper documentation to support issues raised in the report. This process is continuing at the North East regional level for the second interim report of India to the Committee. Children are documenting violations of their rights in a spectrum of sensitive issues, including their use in armed confrontations in the multiple conflict situations existing in the region.

Children trained by CORE in adolescent health and rights have participated in community training projects in Manipur on these issues, including HIV prevention and basic care.

Children trained in issues relating to children's and women's rights have also participated as trainers in community training programmes.

Country: Indonesia

Project Title: Peace Generation Go & See Visits and Youth Civic Participation Initiative

Implementing Partners: Consortium for the Assistance to Refugees and the Displaced in Indonesia (CARDI), made up of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Danish Refugee Council, the Norwegian Refugee Council and Stichting Vluchteling

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Amy Wachtel, International Rescue Committee
amyw@their.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The Consortium for the Assistance to Refugees and the Displaced in Indonesia (CARDI) was recently formed and has been carrying out programs specifically for youth since 2001. The program for youth began with a peace education project in North Sulawesi for IDP youth. This led to the Peace Generation Go and See visits, and later, the Civic Participation Initiative.

After a 5-month peace education program with IDP youth in North Sulawesi, CARDI carried out a program entitled Peace Generation Go and See Visits. The project purpose was to initiate contact and to promote peace and social harmony between youth in North Sulawesi and youth in Ternate, North Maluku, and to disseminate information about conditions in Ternate in order to support the process of return to North Maluku. The Peace Generation Go & See Visit was the first youth initiative in Ternate after the riots (1999-2000), and reached over 1,400 adolescents in North Sulawesi and North Maluku. 20 Peer Educators from the Peace Generation youth group in North Sulawesi from different backgrounds (IDPs, youth from local communities in North Sulawesi, Muslims and Christians) travelled to Ternate. In ten days, the youth participated in discussion groups, school visits, and sports events. Highlights of the week included a Ramadan event, bringing together Christians and Muslims and sparking conversations about religious practices. In addition, the youth organized two radio programs that were aired on national radio. Peace Generation has demonstrated that youth can come together as friends, teams, and co-workers to build understanding and to promote the peaceful resolution of conflict.

Since August 2002, CARDI has implemented the Youth Civic Participation Initiative for returnees and internally displaced persons (about 3000-6000) in multiple sites throughout

North Sulawesi, Ambon, and North Maluku. The purpose of the program is to develop an appropriate response to the special needs of youth, particularly high risk youth, through the promotion of community participation, leadership opportunities, income generation activities, vocational training and additional activities that help to promote healthy development. Peer educators meet with other youth to identify and prioritise their interests and plan and carry out recreational/cultural activities and establish theme-based clubs. They also plan local radio programs. Youth become strong voices in their communities by emphasising the importance of focusing on youth protection and development issues.

Specific activities include:

- Peer educators travel to surrounding villages to conduct peace education activities (including recreation, music, drama, conflict resolution).
- Youth conduct radio programs to address issues of resettlement.
- Community committees receive micro-grants to create action plans that address the needs of youth in the community.

Country: Indonesia, Aceh

Project Title: Peace Education Programme

Implementing Partners: UNICEF with Non-Violence International

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Ayda Eke, UNICEF Indonesia
aeke@unicef.org

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description :

To address the effects of on-going violence in the province of Aceh, in 2001, UNICEF introduced a peace education and non-violent conflict resolution programme in high schools throughout the province.

- UNICEF, in partnership with Non-Violence International, developed an innovative 27-module peace education curriculum, drawing on Islamic precepts of peacebuilding and on peaceful conflict resolution traditions from Acehnese culture;
- An external evaluation of the peace education programme, conducted in September 2002, included the involvement of high school students as participants in order to assess their views of the programme. The programme proved highly successful, demonstrating an increase in students' knowledge and understanding of peacebuilding as more than just the absence of war or violence. Emphasis is placed on manifest justice under the law, economic justice and prosperity for all people, and harmony in society as a whole. The students gave examples of how they apply the lessons of peaceful conflict resolution in their daily lives among themselves, in their families, and in their communities.

The students (grade 10) in the programme are not viewed as passive receivers of the lessons, but are encouraged to see themselves also as 'teachers'. A recent evaluation has demonstrated that participants are overcoming shyness and learning to speak their minds comfortably in public. Furthermore, the students are challenged and motivated by the opportunity to be part of a learning community where they also facilitate and teach.

Country: Indonesia, Maluku province

Project Title: Cooperation on child rights

Implementing Partners: UNICEF, Save the Children UK, Terre des Hommes, and provincial education authorities.

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Ayda Eke, UNICEF Indonesia
aeke@unicef.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

To promote the protection of child rights UNICEF, in collaboration with Save the Children UK, Terre des Hommes, and provincial education authorities, has sponsored various joint activities between the Muslim and Christian communities in the Maluku province, particularly in connection with Hari Anak Nasional (National Children's Day), in both 2001 and 2002.

In 2001, a month of joint activities focusing on child rights, creativity, and cooperation reached at least 500 Muslim and Christian children through the efforts of local NGOs on Ambon Island. A delegation of Maluku children, both Christian and Muslim, made national headlines through their participation in the second National Children's Congress in Jakarta.

In late-July 2001, some 40 child rights advocates, both Christian and Muslim, participated in an intensive training in child rights.

In 2002 a Muslim-Christian coalition of child-focused NGOs has been conducting a province-wide campaign for the creation of a Maluku Children's Parliament in close collaboration with UNICEF, Save the Children UK, Terre des Hommes, and provincial education authorities. As of late-July, child rights workshops for some 1,000 children have been carried out on four outlying islands in addition to Ambon, and the first-ever Maluku Children's Congress was held in the run-up to National Children's Day. An estimated 1,700 children from all religious communities have been reached through these joint activities.

Country: Indonesia, Maluku province

Project Title: Training for Peace

Implementing Partners: Pusat Studi dan Pengembangan Perdamaian (PSPP);
Yayasan ARTI; Non-Violence International

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Ayda Eke, UNICEF Indonesia
aeke@unicef.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

UNICEF is funding efforts to train young people to participate more effectively in conflict resolution through two mutually supportive initiatives:

- A network of 40 educators, youth group organisers, and community leaders is carrying out a series of conflict management trainings involving students, teachers, and youth groups throughout Ambon Island. Conducted in cooperation with provincial authorities, these trainings are in follow-up to earlier UNICEF-sponsored trainings carried out in 2001 by the Pusat Studi dan Pengembangan Perdamaian (PSPP) in Ambon and in Yogyakarta.
- In eight high schools in North Maluku, as well as through schools and various community organisations in Maluku, UNICEF is funding Yayasan ARTI to pilot the use of peace education materials developed with support from UNESCO. The Department of Education is a close partner in this endeavour.

Country: Indonesia, North Maluku

Project Title: Youth Civic Participation Initiative

Implementing Partners: UNICEF and CARDI

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Ayda Eke, UNICEF Indonesia
aeke@unicef.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

One of the main consequences of the outbreak of violence in North Maluku has been the disruption of educational and social services available to youth. To address the needs of youth in North Maluku, UNICEF is supporting the CARDI Youth Civic Participation Initiative, initiated in October 2002. The programme aims to foster a sense of normalcy and direction in the lives of youth through participatory programming that will:

- Train youth to identify needs in their communities and undertake educational, recreational and advocacy projects in response to those needs;
- Support dialogue and interaction between youth and community members from different religious, ethnic, and geographic communities through the creation of Community Committees that will be responsible for the creation of Community Action Plans to meet the needs of youth in their villages;
- Strengthen social integration by involving adolescents in community decision-making.

Country: UN administered Province of Kosovo

Project Title: Child Friendly School Programme

Implementing Partners: World Vision Kosovo
UNICEF, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) in Kosovo, CARE, CRS, EducAID, an Italian INGO, Kosovo Women Initiative and Kosovo Education Centre, two local NGOs working on education issues.

Funding Partners: UNICEF

Contact: Tatiana Maisuradze, Program Manager
E-mail: Tatiana_Maisuradze@wvi.org

Web site: www.wvi.org
www.child-rights.org

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

From May 2002 World Vision Kosovo has been implementing a 9-month Pilot School Project funded by UNICEF. The project aims to empower children, youth, local educators and local communities to be actively engaged in the establishment and maintenance of an innovative rights based, gender sensitive, child friendly education model.

Participatory methodologies such as Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) are used, and community facilitators are trained to work with the entire community but with a special focus on children, youth, women and educators.

The main activities include:

- Creation of a Healthy School Environment
- Various multiethnic interactive activities for children and youth
- Establishment of Parents and Teachers Associations (PTA)
- Participatory School-Assessment
- Child Rights Workshops for pupils, teachers and PTA members
- Study Tours
- Development of School Improvement Plans

During the first phase of the project, the initial child friendly pilot model promoting peaceful coexistence and tolerance, minority inclusion, quality education, equal

educational opportunities for all, child rights, physical and mental well being and development of sustainable life skills was established in all six targeted schools in both designated municipalities.

Challenges facing the project include the persistence of stereotypical mentalities resulting from the former socialist system, unwillingness of many teachers to accept innovative education ideas and methodologies, as well as set perceptions of roles and relationships in traditional Kosovo society where children and women's voices are hardly heard. Each of these factors hamper a paradigm shift towards a contemporary quality educational system.

In the environment of the ongoing school reform in Kosovo, the innovative rights based and child friendly pilot school model needs to be consolidated and expanded. An efficient education system can be a catalyst to break the vicious cycle of ethnic conflict and hostility among the various multi-ethnic communities, and the schools that promote multi-ethnic co-existence, tolerance, peace and inclusion for all will play an active role in attaining positive changes in the whole society.

WV plans to implement a second phase of the project targeting the six initial pilot school-communities as well as 12 respective peer school-communities in both designated municipalities. The main emphasis of the program is to enhance the community to mobilize its inner resources and networks, increase local participation in decision making, build awareness of human and civil rights, strengthen the community's capability to make authorities accountable, establish the linkages between community and policy makers and intensify the leadership and organizational skills within various community groups with inclusion of the most marginalized groups such as children, youth and women.

Country: UN administered province of Kosovo

Project Title: Kids on the Net; within the Stabilization Through Social Development (STSD) Programme

Implementing Partners: United Methodist Committee On Relief-NGO (UMCOR-NGO), with UNICEF and CIDA

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Tracey Shissler, UMCOR
tshissler@umcor.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

As part of the STSD Programme, UMCOR/Kosovo, with funding from UNICEF, implemented a youth development project in Parteš Village, Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipality. Through this project, UMCOR/Kosovo worked with a youth group to establish a Computer and Internet Centre. As a result of this project, Serbian youth are able to communicate on-line with other youth in Kosovo and other areas in the Balkans.

Following the establishment of a computer center in Parteš where youth received skills training in computers, peace-building and organizational development, UMCOR/Kosovo is implementing a follow-up project called Kids on the 'Net. This project was funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and UNICEF and involved the use of microwave/wireless internet technology to link ten communities in Eastern Kosovo. A network of ten computer centers has been established to provide internet access services and technology training to over 125,000 youth in Eastern Kosovo. In addition, 124 youth, aged 10 to 24, participated in trainings workshops on business management, web journalism, information technology management, and desktop publishing.

Country: UN administered province of Kosovo

Project Title: Kosovo Youth Congress (KYC)

Implementing Partners: International Rescue Committee (IRC), funded by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Amy Wachtel, International Rescue Committee
E-mail: amyw@theirc.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The Kosovo Youth Congress, held from 26-29 June, 2001, was the culmination of a youth civic participation initiative implemented by IRC in Kosovo. The Congress was also the foundation of a self-sustaining framework of further civil society projects conducted by youth groups throughout Kosovo.

The Civic Participation Initiative (CPI) was established in 20 rural villages in Pristina and Prizren to train adolescents to identify problems in their communities and take action to solve them. Child-to-Child and Youth-to-Youth groups were established in schools and youth centres in each of the communities. These groups identified and prioritized community problems, gathered information, formulated and implemented a plan of action, and finally, assessed outcomes and evaluated process. CPI groups undertook projects over the 12-month program implementation period that included performing skits for their peers, drawing posters to display in schools and other community spaces, publishing and distributing information brochures, and organizing youth rallies and concerts. Also, a youth leader was selected from each group and trained in leadership techniques, as well as meeting each month with other youth leaders to discuss activities and formulate regional or national plans of action and advocacy.

The Youth Congress in 2001 brought together not only representatives from the youth groups established by IRC's Civic Participation Initiative, but also representatives from youth groups around the country. There were over 90 youth present at the Congress representing almost 90 different youth groups around the country. Prior to the Congress, surveys had been conducted among youth and adults in Kosovo to assess the primary issues concerning youth, and these results were presented at the Congress. The five main issues identified, future of youth NGOs, drugs, security and violence, unemployment and economic development, and public health and safety, became the topics for working groups throughout the conference. Youth formalized recommendations on each of these topics, and created a plan of action to address these and other topics, and created a structure for an ongoing representative youth body in Kosovo. Youth also had a chance

to meet with some national decision-makers at the Congress and begin to forge links and raise the profile of youth among governing structures of Kosovo.

Country : UN administered province of Kosovo

Project Title: Making the Choice for a Better Life: Promoting the Protection and Capacity of Kosovo's Youth

Implementing Partners : Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children

Funding Partners:

Contacts : Julia Matthews
juliam@womenscommission.org

Website : www.womenscommission.org/projects/children/index.html

Core Documents: 1) Untapped potential: Adolescents Affected by Armed Conflict. A review of Programs and Policies

2) Making the Choice for a Better Life: Promoting the Protection and Capacity of Kosovos's Youth
(Both reports are available at:
<http://www.womenscommission.org/reports/index.html>)

Programme Description:

As part of the Women's Commission's international campaign to address the needs and support the capacities of war-affected adolescents, the publication "Making the Choice for a Better Life: Promoting the Protection and Capacity of Kosovo's Youth" was released. The report documents rights abuses committed against adolescents during the war in Kosovo in 1999, as well as international and local responses to young people during the refugee crisis in Albania. It also provides the results of the Women's Commission's in-depth participatory research project with adolescents in Kosovo, which involved 24 adolescent researchers and seven adult research advisors. The researchers, who interviewed nearly 300 adolescents, identified the key needs and concerns of Kosovar youth, who have been largely excluded from the reconstruction efforts, as well as youth-identified solutions to these concerns.

Despite the deep ethnic divide that remains in Kosovo, the Women's Commission found that young people of all ethnic backgrounds share similar fears and hopes about their community and the future. Kosovar youth ranked among their most urgent concerns:

- Violence and lack of security
- Limited freedom of movement
- Kidnapping, trafficking, sexual violence and exploitation, particularly among girls
- Prevalence of guns and other weapons, such as landmines
- Uncertainty about the future

Making the Choice for a Better Life has been used intensively in advocacy efforts to support programming for and with Kosovo's youth. In January and June 2001, young Kosovars of different ethnic backgrounds travelled to the United States to ask US Governments, non-governmental organizations, the UN and other decision-makers to intensify their focus on Kosovo's youth according to the young people's recommendations. They also participated in the Preparatory Committee meetings for the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children, where they highlighted their concerns to the world's governments and other international decision-makers.

The study also served as a pilot project for a similar, larger youth-focused initiative, which also includes funding for youth-led projects; and was used to inform a Kosovo-wide, youth-led survey conducted for a Youth Congress held in support for youth programming.

Country : UN administered province of Kosovo

Project Title: Recreational Activities in Schools

Implementing Partners : AVSI

Funding Partners:

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Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

In 1999 a “rapid response” project in the municipalities of Zborc, Prugovc and Brilleva intending to provide meeting points and cultural exchange among groups of children and youth from differing ethnic background was implemented. The project was greatly appreciated by the children and youth who participated. This “ Program for Infancy and Youth in Kosovo” was carried out in cooperation with the local NGO AYA, with the support of UNICEF and was implemented in 19 villages - Gjacova, Peja, Mitrovica, Prizren, Klina, Vitina – and involved approximately 9, 000 children . The involvement of children and their families provided an environment conducive to building and restoring three schools in the same locations with strong participation and “ownership” by the local people.

Given the success of the project in 1999, a broader and longer term 3 year program “Recreational activities in schools” was launched in 2000. This project aims at facilitating and enhancing the individual expressive capacities of youth and children with a view to improve communication skills and strengthen relationships among themselves and also in a social context.

The approach is twofold:

1. 60 young people receive theoretical and practical training in group leadership. Training content is composed of pedagogical, psychosocial and methodological matters in a simulative and participatory process.
2. Training is associated with sessions of planning, organization and supervision of recreational and expressive activities for children in the schools and in other selected centres.

Emphasis is placed on building upon and enhancing the participant’s own confidence and self-awareness, network of social relationships including families, peer groups, associations, etc.

Main Lessons learned

- Not only requires effective training and active and self-initiated involvement of youth but in addition the support from surrounding environments, that is families, communities and institutions.
- The recreational and cultural activities should be appreciated not only because they are implemented with satisfaction, but also evaluated on what positive effects they yield in the daily lives of youth, at school, in the family and in the community.

Country: UN administered province of Kosovo

Project Title: Stabilization Through Social Development (STSD)

Implementing Partners: United Methodist Committee On Relief-NGO (UMCOR-NGO)

Funding Partners: BPRM

Contacts: Tracey Shissler, UMCOR
tshissler@umcor.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The Stabilization Through Social Development (STSD) Programme, with funding from BPRM, was designed to build on the success of the previous STSD Programme by strengthening the capacity of youth groups in Gnjilane/Gjilan to contribute toward peace-building and inter-ethnic tolerance in their communities. Sub-grants were awarded to seven youth groups for the implementation of a variety of peace-building projects including radio programmes, an inter-ethnic scout troop, and a multi-ethnic choir. In addition, a summer camp in Macedonia was held for 50 youth from different regions in Kosovo. The Kosovo Centre for International Cooperation is a local NGO that was established under this programme to continue the work of enhancing the capacity of youth groups. Its activities include conducting multi-ethnic sports tournaments, art and language classes, and trust building trainings.

Country: Liberia

Project Title: Refugee Education Program

Implementing Partners: International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Amy Wachtel, International Rescue Committee
amyw@theirc.org

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The refugee education programme has been carried out since 1999, targeting refugees and internally displaced persons in Montserrado county. Youth focused programs are intended to supplement formal education activities, promote the intellectual and physical development of youth, and support the eventual reintegration of refugees and IDPs into their home communities.

Participatory planning meetings are conducted with youth focus groups to determine the needs of young people and develop strategies to address those needs, according to priority and availability of resources. Youth leadership structures take the lead in moving the programme activities forward, organising meetings to review progress on a regular basis. Young people design and implement peer education programmes, counselling, mobilisation, advocacy and income generation in their respective communities.

One key component of the IRC Liberia programmes is the young women's social clubs. Through the youth-led needs assessments, many girls expressed a desire to learn more about adolescent health issues, but were too timid to hold discussions in a mixed classroom with boys. The girl's social clubs were created to provide girls a space to learn about health and gender issues, but also to be encouraged to learn, express themselves artistically and intellectually, and develop leadership and problem solving skills.

Activities, carried out primarily via the young women's social clubs, include the following:

- Health education (health talks on STI/HIV/AIDS in camps, adolescent Health (RH) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) awareness and counselling)
- Peer education (awareness lectures, dramas, and discussions on important topics)
- Sports and recreation activities
- Skills training such as soap making, tailoring, baking, crocheting, typing, and sewing
- Teenage mothers empowerment program (for details, see next entry)
- Formal and non-formal education

Country: Liberia

Project Title: Young Mothers Empowerment Program in Montserrado Refugee Camps

Implementing Partners: International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Funding Partners: Eleanor Bellows Pillsbury (EBP) Fund

Contacts: Julia Matthews, Women's Commission
juliam@womenscommission.org

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

IRC-Liberia is working to increase health knowledge and promote self-esteem among young refugee mothers in Montserrado refugee camps in order to provide health care and prevent STI/HIV/AIDS.

Activities:

- Facilitate the formation of young mothers groups and leadership.
- Conduct Training of Trainers (TOT) to 16 peer guides on general life skills and adolescent health.
- Conduct meetings, talks and trainings on gender based violence, STI/HIV/AIDS, safe motherhood, nutrition and hygiene.
- Provide youth-friendly health counselling and referral services.
- Facilitate interested young mothers to go back to school or attend adult literacy classes.
- Encourage participation in sports and drama activities.

In addition, the project is promoting self-reliance to 20 young mothers in Montserrado refugee camps through micro-credit schemes for activities such as baking, sewing, tie dye, and soap making projects.

Activities

- Train 100 young mothers – ages 14 to 20 years from Sierra Leone residing in refugee camps – in basic skills including baking, sewing, tie die, and soap making.
- Support 20 young mothers to implement small-scale baking, sewing, tie and dye, and soap making projects and conduct basic business skills training.

Country: The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRoM)

Project Title: Youth Leadership Conference

Implementing Partners: Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
(OSCE) Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Wolfgang F. Greven, OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to
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wolfgang.greven@osce.org

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje and the Nansen Dialogue Centre (NDC) Skopje will hosted their first Joint Youth Leadership Conference in Mavrovo on 13-15 December. Approximately 30 students, aged 14 to 18 years, from various secondary schools in the Tetovo region took part in the conference. With backgrounds in economics, textiles, music and agriculture, the students represented a cross section of community life in their region.

With the help of role plays, students are developing skills in a number of areas including leadership, conflict resolution, and teambuilding. During the seminar they have attempted to find solutions they can implement to address some of the problems their communities face.

The main tutor at the Conference is Albert Hani from Nansen Dialogue Centre, who has extensive experience of group facilitation and has run more than 25 seminars of this kind.

OSCE intends to run similar conferences with high school students from other municipalities throughout the country over the next six months.

Country: Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

Project title: Adolescents for a Change!!!

Implementing Partners: UNICEF

Funding Partners: UNFIP

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Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

Due to the current political crisis, adolescents in OPT have experienced increased psychological distress. As part of UNICEF's response to the needs of adolescents, a contest called "Adolescents for a Change!!!" was initiated. This initiative aims to provide adolescents with opportunities to believe in themselves and to direct their feelings of fears and hopelessness towards positive constructive energies. Adolescents were invited to identify priority needs in their communities, develop appropriate plans of action, fundraise for their projects, and implement and evaluate them.

The project went through three phases: 1) advertisement and selection of the winning projects; 2) training of winning adolescent groups; 3) implementation and evaluation. The advertisement invited groups of 5 to 20 adolescents to identify priority needs in their communities, develop appropriate plans of action to fulfil these specific needs and approach non-governmental organisations to endorse their project. The projects that were submitted had to meet certain criteria including 1) the project should deal with a problem that adolescents identify as a priority in their neighbourhood, 2) the project should involve other adolescents beyond the initial group, 3) the project should equally benefit boys and girls, and 4) the project should involve the disadvantaged member of society such as the disabled, the poor, and orphans.

Following the preparation of the plans of action by the adolescents, proposals were submitted jointly by the adolescents and the NGOs to UNICEF and were reviewed by a panel of adolescents and youth experts. A nominal grant of \$4000 was awarded to each of the six most interesting and challenging projects. Adolescent groups awarded the grants were trained in project planning which was followed by the implementation of the projects whose duration ranged between 4-6 months with the support of the NGOs.

This project sets a good example for “learning by doing”. Self- development of the adolescents started from the planning phase until the completion of the projects. Several life skills of the adolescents were enhanced such as the sense of responsibility, self-reliance among the participating adolescents, self-esteem, creativity and communication and interpersonal skills. For the local community, this project has been a surprising change where they saw adolescents planning, making decisions, mobilizing community members and delivering. The attitudes of the local community towards adolescents and their capacities have changed

Among the lessons learned from this project were the following:

- The project provided a very appropriate and meaningful role for the adolescents during this political crisis. At a time when adolescents felt that they have no control over their lives and that they are hopeless, this project gave the opportunity for adolescents to plan projects that would enable them to feel that they can contribute positively to the situation. They were capable of developing and implementing projects that would benefit their peers and younger children.
- The project opened the door for greater role of adolescents in community development. These adolescents contributed to their society in different ways including setting up computer centers for children, promoting awareness on personal hygiene and prevention of car accidents and tackling the issue of drop outs and convincing their peers to continue their education. These adolescents felt that they could be actors of change in their own communities.
- As this project was intended to provide opportunities for adolescents to meaningfully participate in the community development, we realised that awareness raising on the importance of participation and on the “how” among decision-makers is very much needed. This will ensure that a conducive environment for the participation of adolescents in the decision making process is put in place.
- This project has promoted community and NGO contribution to community development in partnership with adolescents. Since the award was only USD\$4000, this has required that the adolescents advocate for their projects and seek funding in their communities to ensure implementation. The NGOs are realising the energies in these adolescent groups and starting to recognise them as partners in development.
- “Learning by doing” is the key approach in building adolescents’ capacity and skills to participate effectively. During this project, adolescents were given the chance to learn, to analyse, to plan, to be creative and to be self-reliant and responsible. This has immensely enhanced self-development among the participating adolescents.

Country: Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

Project Title: Health awareness for adolescents

Implementing Partners: Tamer Institute for Community Education

Funding Partners: Eleanor Bellows Pillsbury (EBP) Fund

Contacts: Julia Matthews
juliam@womenscommission.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

Tamer Institute for Community Education is a non-governmental organization established in 1989 to meet the educational needs of Palestinian children and youth, who constitute more than 60 percent of the Palestinian population.

Tamer's volunteers are between 13 to 20 years of age and are directly involved in the work of the Institute. They work in teams (Nakheel Teams), including members from the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem, and share their experiences with their friends at school and in community centres. The youth also run a weekly page and a monthly supplement in a daily national paper, carrying out all of the editing and production tasks.

Tamer aims to relate adolescent health to crucial life skills, including hygiene, nutrition and fitness. Workshops aim to supply the youth with the awareness, strength and the life skills needed for a better future. Tamer believes the project contributes to the social development process and bolsters the self esteem of the new generation.

This project serves Palestinian youth living in OPT.

Country: Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

Project title: Palestinian Youth Association for Leadership and Rights Activation (PYALARA)

Implementing Partners: UNICEF and Palestinian Youth Association for Leadership and Rights Activation (PYALARA)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Hania Bitar
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Jumana Haj-Ahmad
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Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The Palestinian Youth Association for Leadership and Rights Activation (PYALARA) was founded “to encourage constructive activity among Palestinian adolescents in the various fields of communication.” PYALARA publishes a monthly newspaper for teenagers, distributing tens of thousands of copies throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The youth-run newspaper aims to provide Palestinian adolescents with a platform for expressing themselves, and to help prevent feelings of despair due to the stress and violence they are experiencing in their daily lives.

Country: Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

Project title: WE CARE

Implementing Partners: UNICEF and Palestinian Youth Association for Leadership and Rights Activation (PYALARA)

Funding Partners: UNFIP

Contacts:

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Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), UNICEF works together with the Palestinian Youth Association for Leadership and Rights Activation (PYALARA) to support a peer-to-peer counselling programme for young people. PYALARA was founded “to encourage constructive activity among Palestinian adolescents in the various fields of communication.”

The peer-to-peer counselling programme trains university students to provide psychosocial support, mentoring and recreational activities for adolescents in local schools and villages. Following the training, university student volunteers conduct a series of school-based sessions with adolescents in the most violence-stricken areas.

This project gives university student volunteers an opportunity to contribute to their community in a positive way, boosting their self-esteem. It also provides new skills, such as active listening and methods of stress relief and peer counselling. The school-based sessions provide a peaceful outlet for young people to express their views, opinions, fears and concerns, and ways to deal with their stress. Following the psychosocial support sessions, adolescents are given the opportunity to express themselves in constructive and creative ways, for example:

A youth-to-youth hotline operated by university student volunteers provides psychosocial support to adolescents and youth, especially during times of restricted

mobility and curfews.

In some cases, adolescents have the opportunity to express themselves through print and visual media, including a newsletter developed by and for adolescents, and a TV programme also prepared by and for adolescents. This regular weekly TV programme was launched on the International Children's Day of Broadcasting (ICDB) 2002.

Community-based action where adolescents plan projects to improve their neighborhoods and schools, working through community centers and youth clubs.

Follow-up psychosocial support sessions are conducted by university students in local schools.

This project provided a very appropriate and meaningful role for the youth during this political crisis; mentoring groups of adolescents is a role that youth are qualified to play and that is very needed and appreciated by the adolescents themselves and by adults. In addition, although this project was primarily intended to be a response to the psychological and social distress of adolescents in the political crisis, the project provided an appropriate response to the on-going unmet needs of adolescents in the Palestinian society, regardless of the political situation.

Country:	Philippines
Project Title:	Building bridges of peace in Mindanao
Implementing Partners:	World Vision Development Foundation, Philippines
Funding Partners:	World Vision Canada
Contacts:	Aimyleen Velicaria-Gabriel aimyleen_gabriel@wvi.org
Website:	www.wvi.org www.child-rights.org
Core Documents:	National Coalition for Children’s Participation (NCCP), Building a Child Friendly Nation, 2002 World Vision Discussion Papers, Children and Peacebuilding Experiences & Perspectives, 2001

Programme Description:

World Vision Development Foundation (WV) is one of several large NGOs in the Philippines engaging in community projects that address poverty – a major root cause of armed conflict. Through its area development programs, which are funded by child sponsors in various countries, WV provides opportunities for people of diverse ethnic origins and faiths to work cooperatively together in the cause of development. In these endeavors, children are recognized as a strong group with a major role to play in promoting a culture of understanding and unity.

During 2000 and 2001, WV has carried out Local Capacities for Peace / Do No Harm (LCP/DNH) workshops in Mindanao. The LCP/DNH tool provides communities, including youth, with a forum to examine and understand the ‘dividers’ (existing and potential tensions or capacities for violence) and ‘connectors’ (capacities and resources for peace that already exist despite the conflict) in their communities. It also assesses the impact of project activities on both these dividers and connectors, so that where negative impacts are identified, other options can be explored and used.

Children’s potential for peace

Experience in four provinces of Mindanao has demonstrated to WV that children can be very active participants in the peace-building process. In the Zamboanga barangay, local youth organisations are at the forefront of activities which promote inter-faith fellowship among young people, such as sports competitions. Children in Zamboanga have also been active in peace rallies and advocacy. WV sponsored children, for example, have participated in ‘Week of Peace’ celebrations in Mindanao. During the event, they pledged their commitment to work for peace by signing the United Nations Manifesto of Peace

2000. Subsequently they convened a gathering that was attended by young people from all over the province, on the theme of reconciliation among people of different faiths.

Over the past four years, WV has been facilitating regional children and youth assemblies that have gradually fostered a better understanding of and respect for the diversity in ethnicity and religion among the peoples in Mindanao.

As a key agency implementing the 'Expanding Children's Participation in Social Reform' initiative, WV encourages children in its area development programs to take the lead in conducting activities that promote interaction, especially between children and youth. Training and seminars, sports, fellowships and theatre groups are favourite activities where children and young people are fostering a deeper sense of camaraderie and solidarity.

Country: Romania

Project Title: “Kids’ Club”: A Project for HIV Infected Children in Constanta County, Romania

Implementing Partners: World Vision Romania

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Nina Petre, Operations Director
Nina_petre@wvi.org

Website: www.wvi.org
www.child-rights.org

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

Constanta County has the highest number of children infected with HIV/AIDS in Romania. HIV infection is still considered a social stigma in the region and has led to marginalisation and social exclusion of infected persons. The issue has become a serious social problem with few social support services in place for children and their families. There are still many HIV infected children in Constanta County who have limited or no access to education and recreational programs. For many HIV infected children, when they publicly declare the infection, their rights are unknown and are constantly violated. Often HIV infected children have been excluded from kindergartens and schools, and are considered "dangerous" for other children. Many HIV infected youth from Constanta County are in good health with few signs of AIDS as of yet and are in urgent need of vocational orientation. However, due to the sharp stigma attached to the virus few employers are willing to hire HIV infected youth.

The “Kids’ Club” Project began in Constanta County, Romania in 1999. The primary objective of the project for HIV Infected Children in Constanta County is to build the capacity of local communities to increase the quality of life and restore hope for children infected with HIV in the region. The project is working to create coalition/partnership of local NGOs involved in issues related to HIV/AIDS to facilitate programme sharing, and the exchange of information and experiences. The project also aims to organize public awareness campaigns/events on the issues. WV recognizes that an essential element in the achievement of the project’s objective is the involvement of local children and parents in the decision making, the design and the overall organization of the events.

In 2003 the project aims to have a greater impact on children, families and communities through a new public dimension. This new approach involves the active participation of children as partners, not only as beneficiaries. As part of this Public Advocacy Campaign, the first national HIV infected Children’s Forum will be organized in Constanta, bringing

together infected adolescents from all over Romania, for whom stigma is no barrier. The children, together with their parents, will advocate, under the umbrella of the coalition, for the right to a normal life including the right to education, and employment and the right to fight against social marginalization. The Children's Forum will be organized in partnership with the local coalition of NGOs working in the field of HIV/AIDS. Participants will include community members from all project intervention areas.

Country: Russian Federation, Ingushetia

Project Title: Emergency Education

Implementing Partners: International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Funding Partners UNICEF

Contacts: Amy Wachtel, International Rescue Committee
amyw@their.org

Website:

Core Documents: Emergency Education and Psychosocial Adjustment : Displaced Chechen youth in Ingushetia. Forced Migration Review, October 2002, vol. 15, pp. 28-30.

Programme Description:

Since 2000, young people have played an essential role in the design of the emergency education programme for internally displaced persons from Chechnya, in 16 settlements throughout Ingushetia. Their biggest achievement is their ability to upgrade the non-formal education programme to a more formal system. Through community meetings and participatory research, as well as meetings between youth leaders and teachers, young people and their parents choose the format of the education program. Based on the need of the youth, some changes have been made to the programme. Young people carry out activities for children in classrooms during the academic year and during the summer programme.

Specific activities include:

- Education program in each settlement where children/youth study curriculum of the Russian Ministry of Education and receive grade and graduation certificates
- Vocational training for women from youth up to age 35

- General vocational training program for youth up to age 25 (skills include tailoring, culinary arts, electronics, and carpentry, accounting, computers, and English - - all are 3 month courses and certificates are given at completion)

- Youth leaders who serve as teacher aides in formal classrooms and lead recreation activities for children

- Theme based youth clubs (run by teachers and youth leaders) in each school
- summer recreational program (youth leaders/teachers organize activities and field trips for children)

- Sports centre (children and youth are bussed there during the week for phys. ed. classes)

Country: Rwanda

Project Title: Adolescent Participation and Development

Implementing Partners: UNICEF, Rwanda's youth representation structure

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Samantha Klein, Adolescence Project Officer
sklein@unicef.org

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

UNICEF initiated in 2002 a program to strengthen young people's capacity to identify and address the challenges they face.

Most young people in Rwanda today are vulnerable to a host of socioeconomic problems. They are victims of the war and genocide; many were orphaned and carry the responsibility of raising younger siblings. Adolescents are exploited in the sex trade, recruited into the armed forces, and over three thousand are still imprisoned for alleged crimes committed during the genocide. Opportunities for educational and vocational training are limited; chances for sports and other types of recreation are few. HIV infection among the young continues to rise, with some 4% of adolescents' aged 12 to 14 carriers of the AIDS virus.

Participatory research and analysis revealed two key priorities for young people:

1. Strengthening adolescents' capacity to acquire life-skills and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS.
2. Supporting youth associations' initiatives to improve the lives young people.

The Adolescence Project's overall strategy is youth capacity development to ensure that they are capable of making informed choices, can act responsibly, participate in their communities' development and become economically empowered in the long-term. Youth will be in charge of the on-going assessment, analysis and action on issues of concern to young people at the community level.

Activities:

In 2003, UNICEF will work in the provinces of Gisenyi and Kigali-Ngali to:

- Engage youth leaders and adolescents in participatory research, monitoring and evaluation.

- Develop youth-to-youth communication strategies to ensure that all adolescents have basic information on the prevention of HIV/AIDS.
- Equip vulnerable adolescents (heads of household, orphans) with life-skills through peer-based education.
- Provide youth associations with micro-grants and management training for youth associations involved in income-generation and skills training.
- Promote the social reintegration of adolescent ex-combatants and released prisoners through their involvement in youth associations, clubs and teams.
- Strengthen the capacity of youth representation structures to support youth activities, and develop revolving funds.
- Increase girl's participation in youth leadership.

In addition to working with youth associations and clubs, UNICEF will implement the Adolescence Project through Rwanda's youth representation structure; elected committees of youth responsible for fostering young people's participation in the management of resources and decision-making processes.

Country: Rwanda

Project Title: Promotion of Reconciliation Among Youth (PRAY)

Implementing Partners: World Vision Rwanda

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www.child-rights.org

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

During the emergency provision of relief kits to many Rwandan returnees from Congo and Tanzania, it was identified that many Rwandan youth were still suffering from shock resulting from vivid memories of the genocide and were evidently experiencing emotional trauma. World Vision (WV) recognised that there were no mediums in place for these young people to express themselves. Promotion of Reconciliation Among Youth (PRAY) was introduced to provide an opportunity and platform for youth to bring to the surface many of these difficult emotions through speech, music, drama, dance and sport. It is WV's goal to help these children to begin to heal, to transform these youthful lives and to help young people prepare for a brighter future. The programme has 2 phases: From 1998 to 2001 and from 2001 to 2004.

Programme Activities Include:

- Meetings
- Organizing interactive workshops
- Visits to genocide sites in other parts of the country
- Encouraging artistic expression in the form of music, dance and drama
- Using life journey portraits to talk about the past
- Organizing sports competitions
- Arranging study tours
- Organizing and running the national youth convention
- Taking reconciliation messages to prisoners
- Producing videotapes.

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to peace in Rwanda through the promotion of reconciliation among youth using a wide range of artistic expressions. The target group is youth between the ages of 13-25 years.

Young people were very active in the creation of messages in the form of song, dance poems, drama and fine arts. At the end of the first 3 year period youth groups gave feedback as part of a reflection and responsive education initiative.

Country: Rwanda

Project Title: Youth Participatory Development Program (YPDP)

Implementing Partners: International Rescue Committee (IRC) with the Rwandan Government's Ministry of Youth Sports and Culture

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Amy Wachtel, International Rescue Committee
amyw@theirrc.org

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The goal of the Youth Participatory Development Program (YPDP) is to improve the lives of Rwandese adolescents and young adults in the rehabilitation of their communities by developing and implementing sustainable, youth-run programs which: 1) raise awareness, participation and youth commitment to dialogue, reconciliation and reintegration; 2) strengthen the ability of young persons to identify, plan and implement these projects and; 3) fund and assist youth to manage projects supporting their socio-economic development.

Internally displaced young people and returnees have benefited from the participatory youth development programme in Kibungo since 2000. Youth facilitators are elected by peers to serve on youth committees and community committees. Utilizing a youth-designed selection process, youth associations operating income-generating activities are chosen to receive micro-grants and business skills training. In addition, young people create peace education and health-related outreach activities, including designing information materials that will be used for HIV/AIDS prevention.

The youth committees are also designed to support the government's efforts to have youth representation on national youth councils. IRC helped to train youth leaders who were elected by their peers to represent their village, district or province on these councils. These youth leaders also then supported local youth associations with income generating projects, linking them to other community supports such as bankers, mentors, and community committees. The youth councils developed action plans to meet the needs of youth in their areas, and these plans are then incorporated into community council action plans and hopefully broader ministry plans.

Specific activities include:

Economic development training for youth association members (entrepreneurial skills, business planning, loan application preparation, etc.), conducted by trained youth leaders

Micro-grants to youth associations operating income generating activities
HIV/AIDS prevention activities (condom promotion, education/outreach activities)
Youth-led integration of youth initiatives into community organizations' action plans
Sports and cultural activities

Country: Serbia and Montenegro

Project Title: Strengthening Civil Society in Southern and Eastern

Implementing Partners: United Methodist Committee On Relief-NGO (UMCOR-NGO), with CIDA, ACT Netherlands

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Tracey Shissler, UMCOR
tshissler@umcor.org

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The overall goal of the programme “Strengthening of Civil Society in Southern and Eastern Serbia” is to contribute to Serbia’s sustained democratic development by the strengthening of civil society principles and institutions via local NGOs acting as agents of social change.

A specific goal of the programme component funded by the General Board of Global Ministries Women’s Division of the United Methodist Church is to empower a number of local youth NGOs and those that are dealing with children and youth issues to recognize and address major needs of children and youth in their local communities and to encourage youth participation in different activities undertaken within their projects’ implementation.

Young, deeply committed activists felt obliged to find a way to rebuild civil society. They have established a collection of NGOs, which act as channels for communication through which they are able to cooperate and address different common issues. Youth initiatives are the keystones of political changes in most of the former republics of SFRY. Many of these spontaneous initiatives grew into youth organizations, which continue to be active. Through different activities local youth groups are attempting to win the fight against hidden hostility that still exists, not only between different newly formed states in the region but also within Serbia itself.

UMCOR Serbia plans to continue supporting the activities that address issues such as conflict resolution, peace-building, multiethnic understanding, minority education and counter trafficking of people. Using its previous experiences gained through implementation of its previous Capacity-Building Programme as well as the current Community Revitalization Through Democratic Action (CRDA) Programme, UMCOR Serbia developed its strategy for the upcoming period. The most significant and sustainable effects in the field of peace-building and conflict resolution can be achieved through working with children and youth. These population categories are more receptive

to the ideas of reconciliation and multiethnic understanding as they were not as exposed to civil clashes and ethnic stereotypes.

Country: Sierra Leone

Project Title: Adolescents HIV and AIDS Project: Focus on Communication

Implementing Partners: UNICEF-Sierra Leone

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Edmund Makiu
emakiu@unicef.org

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The results of a UNICEF Adolescents Knowledge Attitudes and Practice (KAP) survey in Sierra Leone showed 7.7% knowledge about HIV and AIDS. Communication has been recognized as being central to HIV/AIDS prevention for young people. However, the country is constrained by a lack of individuals skilled in this area. As a result the UNICEF HIV/AIDS program focuses on increasing access to information and skills for HIV/AIDS prevention among adolescents through capacity building, and multimedia IEC activities. The strategies used to achieve these include programme planning and development, service delivery, procurement and distribution of materials, social mobilisation, communication, and training, monitoring and evaluation in two main program areas- information and awareness raising and life skills.

To address the problem in communication, UNICEF collaborated with the Government of Sierra Leone and contracted the Johns Hopkins University Centre for Communication Programme to train 32 partners including 18 young people in communication strategic planning. During the training, a national communication strategic plan was developed, which now guides HIV/AIDS communication initiatives in the country. Based on the strategic plan, 40 partners including 24 adolescents were trained on HIV and AIDS message and material design and development. Additionally, high quality IEC materials were produced. This is the first time young people participated in the development of materials and messages that target them.

Peer education is one of the key strategies in reaching out to the adolescents. A total of 410 adolescents including 160 refugees have been trained as peer educators and are now engaged in outreach and group activities. Some of the activities include referrals of the peers to centres where they could access services. The Radio Straight Talk involves 14 of the trained youths that produce and present weekly radio magazines on HIV and AIDS targeting their peers.

Drama performances by young people have been used to increase the participation of adolescents in the prevention and control activities. School drama groups have been trained and are now used to reach out to other youths.

In the process of adapting a life skill teaching material (Auntie Stella) for use in Sierra Leone 100 young people participated in focus group activities during which the material was revised. The material, now called Sissy Aminata, will be used in schools.

Country: Sierra Leone

Project Title: Community Based Reintegration

Implementing Partners: Caritas Makeni, Caritas Kenema, SC-UK, IRC, World Vision International, Christian Brothers, & COOPI.

Funding Partners: CIDA/CANADA, German National UNICEF Committee

Contact: Donald Robertshaw, Child Protection Officer UNICEF
Freetown
drobertshaw@unicef.org

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

Over the past year Sierra Leone has been involved in the transition from a country with an emergency profile to a country focusing on development activities. During the emergency phase, abducted and separated children were released and/or demobilized from the fighting forces and provided with emergency care services. Institutional types of interim care facilities were required to meet the children's immediate needs, while the families were traced. It was recognized that simply reuniting the separated child with their families was not enough. Community Based Reintegration (CBR) was identified as a necessary next step.

As 2001/2002 progressed, it became clear, through collaboration and planning with partners, that a shift towards a more sustainable CBR approach was needed. Strategy planning meetings and workshops with MSWGCA and the CPN were held to develop the initial CBR guidelines and indicators in April and May 2002. This initial pre-planning was followed by meetings focused on developing CBR guidelines and standards with implementing partners and MSWGCA representatives in January 2003, followed by a CBR Training of Trainers workshop also in January 2003.

The CBR transition activities include the training of field workers and the establishment of Child Welfare Committees (CWCs). CPA Social workers, in collaboration with MSWGCA, will brief community members on the benefits of establishing CWCs . It is important that their voluntary commitment is clearly understood from the beginning, and that the individual's service motivation is to assist in the recovery and reintegration of the children in their communities.

CWC membership could include traditional and religious leaders, teachers, medical and extension workers; Government line ministry, NGO and Women Association Representatives; and Youth/Opinion Leaders. The programme requires at least two Children per CWC. Although some prestigious community members may be invited to serve on these committees as advisors, it is essential that the majority of the members be

actively involved. The number of members on each committee should not exceed 15. The committee should have a Chairperson, secretary and community liaison officer.

The programme also includes the establishment of Children's Clubs. Children's clubs can serve many diverse functions, from offering recreation and education opportunities to the provision of social support, to affording opportunities to participate in community service. Children's Clubs can be formed according to the children's interests and geographic locations, through school or other groupings of children. The number of executive committee members in each club should not exceed 10. The Children's Committees should meet at least once per month. Gender sensitivity must be observed, and girls/children with disabilities must be appropriately included in club activities.

Children with specific problems should be referred to other appropriate services. CPAs, MSWGCA and other community stakeholders should develop referral directory, update it frequently, and have it available for the CWCs.

Country: Sierra Leone

Project Title: Emergency Education

Implementing Partners: International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Amy Wachtel, International Rescue Committee
amyw@theirc.org

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The emergency education programme has been carried out since 1999, targeting refugees and internally displaced persons in refugee camps in the districts of Bo, Kenema, Kambia, Kono, Kailahun, and Pujehun. The program’s general goals for youth are to supplement formal education activities and increase school attendance, promote the intellectual and physical development of youth, and support the eventual reintegration of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons into their home communities.

Participatory planning meetings are conducted with youth focus groups to determine the needs of young people and develop strategies to address those needs, according to priority and availability of resources. Youth leadership structures take the lead in moving the programme activities forward, organising meetings to review progress on a regular basis. Young people design and implement peer education programmes, counselling, mobilisation, and advocacy in their respective communities.

Youth leaders implement the above activities and programmes primarily through young women’s social clubs. Girls are often too timid to participate in the classroom, but many girls expressed a desire to learn more about health issues. The social clubs were created to provide girls a space to learn about health and gender issues, but also to be encouraged to learn, express themselves artistically and intellectually, and develop leadership and problem solving skills.

Activities include:

- Health education (health talks in camps on HIV/AIDS, Adolescent Health and Gender Based Violence (GBV) awareness and counselling)
- Young women’s social clubs
- Sports and recreation activities
- Formal and non-formal education

Country: Sierra Leone

Project Title: Healing the Trauma of War Among Young People Using Information and Communications Technologies

Implementing Partners: International Education and Resource Network, USA
International Education and Resource Network, Canada
RESPECT International
Computer Aid, UK
Civil Society Movement Sierra Leone
Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organizations
World Peace Prayer Society, Sierra Leone Chapter
Ministry of Youth and Sports
Defence for Children International, Sierra Leone Chapter
International Child Arts Foundation, Sierra Leone

Funding Partners: War Child Canada
Childnet, United Kingdom

Contacts: Andrew Benson Greene, National Coordinator
1st Floor, National Stadium Hostels, Brookfields,
Freetown, Sierra Leone
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00232-22-236085

Website: www.iearnsierraleone.org

Core Documents: www.childsoldiers.org
www.peacereconcile.virtualactivism.net

Programme Description:

International Education and Resource Network (IEARN) Sierra Leone, founded in 1999, is legally registered in Sierra Leone as a 501 non-profit youth serving organization. It is affiliated with IEARN USA, a non-profit global network that empowers teachers and young people (K-12) to use the internet and other technologies to engage in collaborative educational projects. After joining, teachers and students enter online forums spaces to meet other participants and get involved in ongoing projects, initiated by teachers and students from Sierra Leone and others throughout the world.

In addition to meeting a specific curriculum need, every project proposed by teachers and students in IEARN has to answer the question, "how will his project affect the quality of life on the planet?" That vision and purpose is the glue that holds IEARN together.

In its brief history, IEARN Sierra Leone has made significant strides, addressing the educational needs of young people both in Sierra Leone and around the world with its special focus on student tele-collaboration. They enthusiastically create and participate in online projects covering a wide range of issues, including peace, development, human rights, democracy, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Through participation in IEARN's projects, students develop the habit of getting involved in community issues, thus becoming better equipped for future civic participation.

Country:	Sierra Leone
Project Title:	Precious Resources: Adolescents in the Reconstruction of Sierra Leone
Implementing Partners:	Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children Centre for the coordination of Youth Activities (CCYA), The Independent Youth Forum (IYF), the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) and the Sierra Leone Youth Empowerment Organization (SLYEO)
Funding Partners:	
Contacts:	Julia Matthews, Women’s Commission juliam@womenscommission.org
Website:	www.womenscommission.org/projects/children/index.html
Core Documents:	Precious Resources: Adolescents in the Reconstruction of Sierra Leone Untapped Potential: Adolescents affected by armed conflict, A review of Programs and Policies (Both documents are available at: http://www.womenscommission.org/reports/index.html)

Programme Description:

In April 2002, the Women’s Commission carried out its third participatory research project with young people in Sierra Leone. The Women’s Commission worked with 51 adolescent researchers in Sierra Leone, who interviewed over 800 of their peers and adults to identify the key needs and concerns of young people. The Freetown team was coordinated by the Centre for the coordination of Youth Activities (CCYA), the independent Youth Forum (IYF), the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) and the Sierra Leone Youth Empowerment Organization (SLYEO). The women’s Commission released the findings of this research in Precious Resources: Adolescents in the Reconstruction of Sierra Leone.

“Precious Resources” reveals that young people feel marginalized from decision-making that affects their lives. Regardless of their age, gender, background or experience in the war, young people overwhelmingly cited lack of educational opportunities, lack of health care and poverty as their most urged concerns.

The conflict has left many young people without parental, family or home care. The reintegration process, which largely ignored the needs of girls and women, is far from complete. Young people also said that they are competing for scarce resources, often pitting former combatants' needs against those of the wider population of adolescents. Their mistrust of adults, especially in government, is growing.

Country: Sierra Leone

Project Title: Skills Training and Employment Generation

Implementing Partners: Christian Children’s Fund (CCF)/Sierra Leone

Funding Partners: USAID/Office of Transition Initiatives

Contacts: Mike Wessells
mwessell@rmc.edu

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

This project aims to increase the social integration of ex-combatants through support for community-based systems of skills development, employment, cooperation and reconciliation, and development. Its objectives were (1) to strengthen the life skills and positive social role of young ex-combatants, and (2) to create temporary employment for 2,040 ex-combatants and 1,360 community members in the northern districts of Koinadugu, Bombali, and Tonkolili. Young people (13-25 years of age) participated fully in the planning and implementation of civic works, skills training, micro-credit, and reconciliation components

In Phase 1, communities planned through inclusive dialogue civic works projects such as building a health post or a school. Young ex-combatants then worked together with youth who had not been associated with military activity to build the civic works. This strategy of cooperation around a shared goal was designed to help each group humanize the other and to build positive inter-group relations that support peace and reconciliation at the community level. Youth received stipends for their work as a means of providing stop-gap employment. In Phase 1, youth also participated in community dialogues about the peace process and about how to promote reconciliation through traditional activities and local practices that support coming to terms with the past, remorse, and forgiveness. Youth also participated in community reconciliation committees that handled local disputes in a non-violent manner. In phase 2, ex-combatants selected and participated in skills training conducted by selected local artisans, receiving a monthly stipend during training. Having completed the training, trainees participated in a micro-credit program, which was also open to other people in the community and which supported small business activities. Following its initial implementation in 2001-2002, the project was extended the following year to provide wider geographic coverage in Koinadugu District, which had been isolated and severely affected by the war. Participating youth report that they now have a more positive social role, life skills to earn a livelihood and participate meaningfully in civil society, and hope for the future.

Country : Sierra Leone

Project Title: SportWorks Program

Implementing Organization: Right To Play in partnership with UNICEF, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Enfants Refugies du Monde (ERM) Caritas Makeni and Association of Sports for the Improvement of Refugees/Returnees (ASPIR)

Funding Partners:

Contacts : Dyonne Burgers, Program Coordinator Sierra Leone
UNICEF Freetown
dburgers@unicef.org

Website:

Core Documents :

Programme Description:

Right To Play (formerly Olympic Aid) is a Canadian based NGO founded by Olympic athletes, using sport and play as a vehicle to enhance healthy child development and to build community capacity. The SportWorks Program includes sensitization of communities, training of community volunteers (Coach-to-Coach) and a standard program of activities for children on a regular basis. For primary schools, Right To Play developed the 5-Rings module, a program of games and activities that supports the many and varied aspects of child development.

In Sierra Leone, Right To Play was invited by UNICEF to contribute to the Community Based Reintegration Program for former child combatants and separated children. Sports activities provide excellent support towards reintegration of children and young adults in their communities, giving them the opportunity to interact in a positive way with peers and adults. Besides the physical benefits, they can channel their aggression and learn non-violent mechanisms of conflict resolution. Sport teaches them about fair play, team play and respect. Finally, sport can provide them with new, positive role models such as coaches and athletes.

In September 2002, Right To Play initiated the SportWorks Program in the northern and eastern part of Sierra Leone. Now, 45 NGO employees have been trained to implement the SportWorks Program in communities. Over 250 community volunteers –most of them young adults- are attending or have completed Coach-to-Coach workshops. And hundreds of children already participate daily in sport and play activities, conducted by volunteer coaches. Very recently Right To Play began conducting Teacher Training courses to facilitate the implementation of the 5-Rings Module in schools.

Country: Sierra Leone

Project Title: Support for Talking
Drum Studio (TDS)

Implementing Partners: Search for Common Ground (SCG)

Funding Partners:

Contacts:

Website: http://www.sfcg.org/Documents/Programs/Sierra_Leone.pdf

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

Search for Common Ground's (SCG) media program supports Talking Drum Studio (TDS), a multi-media radio programming studio that has programs that include Golden Kids News - engaging children as producers, reporters and actors who identify issues for and about children and advocate on their behalf. Ayenda (Lost and Found), a drama series that facilitates a discussion on the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process through a story about two ex-combatants who are best friends. Search for Common Ground also partners with local groups to host the annual Bo Peace Carnival, where secondary school troupes and youth groups perform plays around issues concerning adolescents and youth.

Country: Sierra Leone

Project title: Support Services to Formerly Abducted Girls

Implementing Partners: IRC, COOPI, SC-UK, Caritas Makeni

Funding Partners: USAID, DCOF

Contact: Donald Robertshaw, Child Protection Officer
UNICEF Freetown
drobertshaw@unicef.org

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

This project has been designed/approved to provide support services for girls that were abducted by the Fighting Forces in Sierra Leone. The project is a short-term initiative which is scheduled for completion in March 2004. The project will be implemented within the framework of the Child Protection Network and the Community Based Reintegration (CBR) approach. The operational areas targeted are Bombali, Kailahun and Kono Districts.

The project works with girls and young women who are still living with their captors or those who were abducted and have been released or have escaped. The girls participating in the programme are 17 years of age or younger. The young women are between the ages 18 and 25 and were abducted/ taken from their parents or original care givers during the conflict before they reached the age of 18.

Programme strategies and activities:

- The identification and location the girls who are still being held. This includes an active sensitisation and advocacy campaign which involves an interactive radio programme run by reintegrated children. The identification and location process includes girl-to-girl identifications facilitated through social gatherings. Efforts to locate these girls require close collaboration with women leaders and women’s groups, peer/youth groups and female ex-combatants. Community based groups are also utilized, such as Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) and Family Support Units (FSUs). The programme also encourages self-referral at drop-in centres.
- Family tracing, reunification or alternative living choice. This component of the programme aims to assist girls in making their reunification decisions. These possibilities may include reunification with family of origin, remaining with a “husband”, or living with friends. The programme plans to initiate an

individualized service plan for Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) activities, to facilitate access to services for those girls still remaining, either voluntarily or by coercion, with their “husbands”, and to provide family mediation and counseling services, when appropriate and possible.

Service delivery options include:

- Basic primary health care for girls and babies
- Medical care for war wounds and sexual trauma
- Specialized care for severely traumatized children or young women
- Adolescent health care
- Access to schooling - Community Education Investment Program (CEIP)
- Access to skills training, small business development and apprenticeships
- Non-formal literacy, numeracy and life skills
- Recreational opportunities
- Reintegration/reunification packages

These services are offered through local schools, primary health care units (PHU), Drop-in centres, and social work follow-up visits

The Child Protection Advisor assigned to a particular district is responsible for follow-up of the girls in their respective districts. The Social Development Workers at the Chiefdom level are also responsible for monitoring and follow-up. In addition, close collaboration is encouraged with the Sierra Leone Police and Family Support Units to deal with gender based violence.

Because this is a short-term, one-time intervention, the girls/young women participating in this program are encouraged to sign a contract/agreement acknowledging their understanding of these limitations.

Country: Sierra Leone
Project Title: Youth in Crisis (YIC)

Implementing Partners: ActionAid

Funding Partners:

Contacts:

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

While the government was in exile in Guinea, Conciliation Resources and UNICEF-Sierra Leone formulated a Youth in Crisis (YIC) project to better address the needs and concerns of youth. ActionAid began work on the project in 1998. It was one of the first projects to see youth in a positive light, not only focusing on their destructive power. YIC undertook participatory research with young people in the Western Area, Bo and Kenema to investigate how they defined their problems and solutions. The recommendations formed the basis of ActionAid programs enabling youth to acquire education and skills to realize their potential, attain meaningful livelihoods and contribute positively to society.

The programs, implemented between 1999 and 2002, focused on skills and on-the-job training, recreation, private enterprise, income-generation and youth sensitization and mobilization on key youth issues, including peace-building and health.

ActionAid is now following-up on this project, researching the impact of policies and programs for adolescents in West Africa in order to enhance youth involvement in the development processes. In addition, ActionAid was involved in the Never Again Campaign, which was led by ex-combatants to ease the reintegration of former child soldiers into society through dialogue focused on sharing experiences and reconciliation.

Country:	Sierra Leone
Project Title:	Youth Pack (Youth Literacy and Life Skills Package)
Implementing Partners:	Norwegian Refugee Council, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (Sierra Leone), ActionAid Sierra Leone
Funding Partners:	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
Contacts:	Mette Nordstrand, Country Representative, NRC, Freetown, nrc@sierratel.sl ; Tel. + 232 22 273 126 Georg Mevold, Field Coordinator, NRC Kambia, SL. nrc@sierratel.sl or geo-me@online.no Eldrid K. Midttun, Education Adviser, NRC, Oslo; eldrid.midttun@nrc.no , Tel. +47-23 10 98 00.
Website:	http://www.nrc.no/engindex.htm
Core Documents:	Youth Pack Teacher Guides: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trainer's Manual 2. Teacher's Manual 3. Literacy I and II 4. Numeracy I and II 5. Health Education 6. Physical Education 7. Peace and Human Rights

Programme Description:

The Youth Pack is a one-year half academic half vocational skills training program for youth, which has been developed by the Norwegian Refugee Council, ActionAid SL and the Sierra Leone Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

The purpose of the Youth Pack is to give youth between the ages of 14 and 22 an opportunity to acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills and increase their functional literacy and employability. The programme will seek to inspire and provide for individual development with emphasis on community and citizenship spirit as part of the national rehabilitation for peace and stability. Interested students might be given an opportunity to pass the national primary school exam.

In addition to literacy and numeracy, subjects that are considered important for youth in Sierra Leone (see list of core documents above) are taught. Prior to adoption, a pilot group of youth were invited to take part in the testing of selected topics from all modules and make suggestions for improvements. The students themselves will be responsible for

developing a culture module containing elements of drama, dance, music, storytelling, and much more.

Trainers, teachers or potential teachers are trained to master the Youth Pack programme and to share their knowledge and experience with other groups of people. The Youth Pack is taught through an interactive and participatory methodology since this creates a better learning environment and provides the youth with opportunities for dialogue and exchange of ideas. The academic topics are combined with a skills training programme in cooperation with ActionAid SL and skilled local craftsmen. The specific activities will be developed jointly and respond to local needs and competence. In Kambia SL the youths have a choice between agriculture, tailoring, carpentry, hairdressing and masonry. At the end of the programme, the youths will be given the tools that they have used during the programme as a start-up package.

The Youth Pack is meant to be flexible and available for adaptation to various countries and situations where official schooling has been interrupted and where children, youth and adults need special educational opportunities for a limited period of time. After the pilot year of 2003, the programme will be adjusted and translated for adaptation in other countries.

Country: Sierra Leone

Project Title: Youth Reintegration Training and Education for Peace (YRTEP)

Implementing Partners: World Vision Sierra Leone (WVSL), Management Systems International

Funding Partners: OTI/USAID

Contacts: foday_sawi@wvi.org

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

In order to reverse years of marginalization and exploitation and support young people's empowerment, World Vision Sierra Leone's (WVSL) Youth Reintegration Training and Education for Peace (YRTEP) program targets youth. Developed with Management Systems International, YRTEP is a nationwide, non-formal education initiative for ex-combatant and non-combatant youth, aged 15-35, including resettled refugees and those displaced by the war. YRTEP focuses simultaneously on reintegration of war-torn communities and remedial education for youth bypassed by schooling for nearly 10 years. Young people are trained in reintegration orientation and counselling, life-skills training, vocational counselling, agriculture skills development, civic education and functional literacy. They then teach what they have learned, in the form of five modules, to other youth.

Since March 2000, almost 50,000 war-affected youth and ex-combatants in over 2,000 sites have participated in YRTEP. The program includes a second track called Education for Nation-Building, a nationwide non-formal education initiative for public and private sector leaders. The program's success in bringing together divided communities has led to its extension beyond the planned two years and an expansion into newly opened areas. Youth involved in YRTEP told researchers that the program develops real reconciliation and leadership skills but said that they need more help in using their new skills for further livelihood development. WVSL and YRTEP's funder, OTI/USAID, have responded to this criticism with a Skills Training and Employment Promotion (STEP) program that focuses on skills development, employment, cooperation, dialogue and psychosocial support.

Country:	Somalia
Project Title:	Youth Education and Development Programme (YEDP)
Implementing Partners:	UNICEF
Funding Partners:	UN Secretariat (Government of Japan), Canada CIDA, Swedish SIDA, Tetsuko Kuryonagi (Japan)
Contacts:	Kimaru WaKaruru kwakaruru@unicef.org
Website:	
Core Documents:	Youth in Somalia (A sample study on aspirations of Somali youth), NFE Learning Package (Syllabus/Curriculum, Learner Modules, Teachers Guides), LOD Training Package.

Programme Description:

UNICEF Somalia, through the youth education and development programme (YEDP) is providing holistic development, learning and participation opportunities for out of school youth aged between 14 and 18 years. This programme, initiated in 1999, uses sports and recreational/cultural activities as the entry point. It places emphasis on strengthening the country's loosely organized youth groups through training and capacity building interventions aimed at turning them into organizationally focused, effective and efficient entities.

To date, a major activity within the programme has been initiation of a large-scale capacity building training programme to impart leadership and organizational development (LOD) skills to the members of the youth groups/organisations. Among the areas covered during these training sessions have been ways in which youth can advance the cause of peace building, and peaceful resolution of conflict - a key area of concern in Somalia. Youth leaders are progressively prepared by the programme to be active agents of change who participate fully in rebuilding a new Somalia.

Another critical activity of the programme for youth is to provide the young people with a second chance to acquire primary level education that they missed out on due to prolonged conflict and complete disruption of education for over a decade. This has been organized through a non-formal mode of education. Providing such opportunities will enable illiterate/semi-literate youth to acquire basic education and enable them to continue lifelong learning through formal/non-formal channels.

Work began in 2001 on a non-formal education (NFE) curriculum designed to provide out of school youth with basic literacy, numeracy and life skills. The complete

curriculum/learning package providing primary level learning outcomes and modules includes foundation course, literacy, numeracy, social studies, health & science, mathematics, gender and business education with teachers' guides for each subject. A mobile NFE kit is also part of the package. Focus is on functionality and life skills including prevention of HIV/AIDS and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and promotion of better health, nutrition, gender equity and peace/conflict resolution. A participatory development process that brought together Somali and international experts has been followed resulting in this very user-friendly curriculum, and a learning materials package. The materials have been translated into Somali language, printed and are in the process of being distributed to NFE centres throughout the country. The programme is in the process of developing an examination and certification system that will ensure linkage with the formal system of education as well as provide an avenue into vocational education and skills for self-employment.

The provision of training and technical expertise on an ongoing basis is expected to help the youth groups turn into active community-based youth organisations (CBYOs) whose action can raise the quality of life at the individual, family, community and societal levels. Currently 200 Somali youth groups and civil society organisations dealing with young people have been identified and are joining together in the youth education, development and protection programme.

Special targeting of girls is also an important element of the YEDP programme. The aim is to achieve 40 per cent participation by girls among the total targeted number of 5400 youth over the initial three-year period.

Country:	Sri Lanka
Project Title:	Children's Societies and Children's Federations
Implementing Partners:	World Vision Sri Lanka
Funding Partners:	Local NGO's, Village Welfare Societies
Contacts:	Chandila Colombege Chandila_colombege@wvi.org
Web site:	www.wvi.org www.child-rights.org
Core Documents:	Gray, Laurence, <i>Children at Risk, Practical Approaches to Addressing Child Protection Issues in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka & Vietnam</i> , World Vision International, 2003

Programme Description:

World Vision Sri Lanka is working to incorporate child participation into all of its programme activities through the establishment of 'Children's Societies' and 'Children's Federations.'

Children's Societies: A Children's Society comprises children from a particular village who are guided by a unique constitution and work together towards their own development and the development of their community.

Children's Federation: The Children's Federation is a higher body of the children's Societies. The child federation is formed with representatives from many children's societies which are located in a single Government administrative area known as an Assistant Government Agent (AGA) Division. (A Child Federation normally includes 25 to 50 children's societies).

The Programme aims to:

1. Empower children to protect themselves from abuse and exploitation.
2. Ensure participation of children both in their own development as well as the development of the wider community.
3. Establish children's rights in the local communities.
4. Explore and provide opportunities for children to reach their maximum potential.

A primary focus of these activities is the promotion of children's participation in the community. Each Child Society and Federation decides on their own activities based on their specific needs and interests. Past activities have included organizing a games-evening, helping adults with voluntary labour, organizing study aid classes and writing and performing a play on child rights which was performed to the public.

These activities have helped to raise the profile of children as important stake-holders in the community. They have also helped to create opportunities for children to voice their opinions and to have their views respected by adults. World Vision has noticed that since the onset of the programme, parents, teachers, community leaders and government officials have gained a new understanding of the concept of children's rights.

A factor impeding the achievement of the programme's goals is the strict authority and control traditionally exerted by adults over children. This power dynamic is very much endorsed by traditional culture. Another challenge is that increased participation of children has in some cases led to children taking-on the responsibilities of adults in addition to their own, thereby increasing their work burden.

Country: Sri Lanka

Project Title: Vivehananda Children Development Club

Implementing Partners: Save the Children Norway (SCN) with ESCO (Eastern Self-Reliant and Community Awakening Organisation)

Funding Partners:

Contacts:

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

In 1999 Save the Children Norway, together with a local partner organisation ESCO (Eastern Self-Reliant and Community Awakening Organisation), embarked on a pilot project with children in a small village called Sivanthivu in Batticaloa District. The project provides an opportunity for the young people of Sivanthivu to take control of their own lives and contribute to activities in their community.

A new school building was constructed in the village, to include grades 6 to 9 (previously only grades 1 to 5 were included) and additional teachers were hired and trained. The new building provides additional space for club activities, including meeting space, play and cultural events for village children, aged 5 to 18. It also houses a small library and provides space for vocational training initiatives aimed at children who are not enrolled in formal education. Fund-raising and local efforts organized by young people to save money for the long-term support of the club won an international competition for youth action.

Country: Sudan

Project Title: Youth Peace Building Initiative

Implementing Partners: International Rescue Committee (IRC), and AZZA (a local NGO in Khartoum)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Amy Wachtel, International Rescue Committee
amyw@their.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

This peace-building initiative began in the fall of 2002 in the following 8 states in Sudan: West Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile, Kassala, South Kordofan, Khartoum, Bahr el Jabal, Red Sea, and Gedarif. The program aims to increase the leadership and problem solving skills of youth while helping to channel their energies and frustrations into positive efforts to rebuild civil society and peace in Sudan.

The main components of the program are training youth leaders in key conflict resolution and peace building strategies, so that these youth leaders can conduct awareness-raising activities with youth in their own communities and create action committees to address local level conflicts identified by the community. At the beginning of the project, awareness raising trainings were conducted throughout the communities to gain support from local officials and tribal leaders, and to assess the needs and concerns of the community. Then youth leaders will be trained in not only peace-building, but also leadership and community mobilization techniques. Once youth leaders have formed action groups in their own communities, they will conduct advocacy, research, and networking activities to address local level issues. Youth leaders will then have a chance to meet and share lessons learned with youth from all 8 states, and create national-level strategies for engagement in the peace process.

Country: Tanzania

Project Title: Adolescent Development Program

Implementing Partners: International Rescue Committee (IRC) and UMATI (national NGO)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Amy Wachtel, International Rescue Committee
amyw@theirc.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The adolescent development programme for Burundian refugee adolescents in Karago camp, Kibondo district has been in operation since 1999. Youth, as team leaders and peer counsellors, are involved in choosing the types of activities that will be offered at the centres. They play a key role in educating their peers about adolescent health and designing the content and delivery of the health messages. Youth also act as counsellors, creating an environment where youth feel comfortable in discussing health related issues. In 2003 the program is expanding to two additional camps: Mtendeli and Nduta.

Youth center-based activities include:

Sports, recreation, social and cultural activities, including community service and pen-pal clubs, with activities chosen from the input of youth questionnaires

Library and reading centre in each youth centre

Literacy courses, skills training, and workshops for continuing education

Life skills, including formal and informal psychosocial therapy, and art, music and play therapy

Health services, including:

- Monthly workshops on HIV/AIDS, Gender Based Violence, health and hygiene
- Peer counselling
- Voluntary STI testing
- Voluntary HIV/AIDS testing and counselling

Country: Tanzania

Project Title: HIV/AIDS programme in refugee camps and affected areas (Youth Component)

Implementing Partner: UNICEF

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Robert Carr, UNICEF Tanzania
rcarr@unicef.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

HIV/AIDS education programmes have been initiated in refugee camps and neighbouring villages to raise awareness and foster collaboration between the young people in camps and in the local community. The project makes use of radio stations such as Radio Kwizera in Ngara, as well as local newspapers, to facilitate dialogue around the issue of HIV/AIDS. UNICEF has also supported pilot community theatre programmes on the topic of HIV/AIDS for adolescents out-of-school in Kibondo and Ngara. These initiatives created a forum in which young people could present their feelings and attitudes about HIV/AIDS and initiate a more open dialogue within the community

In 2002, the youth component of the HIV/AIDS programme in the refugee camps and affected communities was expanded to include the following activities:

- TOT training for teachers and education inspectors to provide young people with skills on leading peer education, guidance, counselling and life skills;
- Developing, printing, distributing and adopting youth-friendly information, education and communication (IEC) materials;
- Providing youth-friendly health services;
- Identifying and adopting strategies implemented in the country of origin, in order to provide refugee children and young people with socially and culturally relevant education, and to promote successful repatriation.

Country: Timor Leste

Project Title: Child and Youth Development Program

Implementing Partners: International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Amy Wachtel, International Rescue Committee:
amyw@theirc.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

IRC chose to give priority to addressing the urgent youth problems of the country by creating youth centres and engaging youth in vocational training and recreational activities. The youth centres offer youth the unprecedented opportunity to expand their education, learn valuable professional skills, relax, participate in recreational and sports activities, and socialize with their peers. IRC has opened three youth centres, one in Covalima (Suai), one in Maliana and one in the enclave of Oecussi (Bobometo), which reach approximately 6000 youth. The centres are currently being transitioned from IRC implementation to local NGO implementation.

The centres were established on the basis of considerable community consultation and input. Committees were set up at each centre and consist of community leaders, youth group leaders, teachers, and NGO representatives. Committee members have received training, in areas such as planning and administration, fundraising, and financial management.

In each youth centre, IRC has implemented innovative measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of the centres. Each centre houses new income generating projects which provide a percentage of their proceeds to the centre. Eventually it is hoped that the profits from the various projects will cover a substantial portion of the operating costs of the centres. These projects include cafes, a radio station, renting space to local NGOs, a weight-lifting gym, and a mechanics workshop.

Activities for youth at the centres include:

- libraries
- language courses (Portuguese, English)
- sports tournaments organized by youth
- skills training (organic agriculture, computer courses, mechanics workshops)
- interest based clubs
- peer counselling
- recreation (games, movies, music groups)

Country: Timor Leste

Project Title: Child and Youth Development Program (CYDP)

Implementing Partners: Save the Children (SC) the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Christian Children's Fund (CCF)

Funding Partners:

Contacts:

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

To respond to the needs of disaffected and disenfranchised youth in Timor Leste, Save the Children (SC), in partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Christian Children's Fund (CCF), has developed community-based youth resource centres. Support was provided to the youth centres through training, materials, and small seed grants. The programme also supported rehabilitation of buildings on public property for use as youth clubs and community centres. Drawing from the community's experiences, members of the community serve on a committee to help plan and manage the centres by generating income for upkeep and activities.

To further support the community centres, SC trained local volunteers in community mobilisation and also trained youth volunteers to help develop activities for children, adolescents, and youth. Once renovated, the youth centres provide small seed grants to local groups for a variety of activities: football tournaments, a carpentry workshop, a youth centre coffee shop, and the celebration of Human Rights Day.

The involvement of the local community through local NGOs has been important in moving forward to meet youth needs, as well as providing a voice for youth who feel disaffected in the post-independence political transition process. The opportunity for community organisations to apply for funding has enhanced meaningful participation at all levels. This model may be replicated with an emphasis on participation at all levels. Even within the CYDP structure, youth are still struggling for a stronger role in the community.

A variety of approaches have been included in the design, as some youth have found that working with younger children and older adults has a positive impact on their community involvement, while others want further access to resources to design their own projects and skills training activities. In this kind of programme model, the small grant concept can also be expanded to build social cohesion and increase youth leadership.

The innovative multi-partner model in this project also highlights shared objectives and approaches, and allows for broader programming and geographic reach.

Country: Uganda
Project Title: Pilot project on Empowering Youth

Implementing Partners: AVSI

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Lucia Castelli, AVSI
Avsi.kitgum@wfp.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

This project helps empower youth as key stakeholders in the psychosocial network, through sensitization, skills training on income generation activities, material support for income generating activities and responding to youth initiatives that have come up during research.

Life Skills Workshops

The first activity was to follow up the life skills trainings, which were conducted for the peer leaders in 2001. The result demonstrated that peer leaders in Lukung, Lukole and Pamolo supported many other young people in their communities in various ways, based on skills acquired from the training. More than five individual cases reported that peer leaders had helped them, through counselling, to end high risk behaviours, including alcohol abuse and unprotected sex, and had helped promote responsible living and livelihoods. In a number of cases peer leaders have provided capacity-building in income generating activities and have helped create awareness to prevent STD/HIV transmitted infections. Peer leaders have also helped other young people in their communities form youth groups, working together in a youth network for mutual support.

Sensitization Workshop

The sensitisation workshops helped the youths:

- Carry out self-assessment to develop positive attitudes towards themselves and their activities, both supporting and encouraging one another.
- Develop awareness of their environment, the available natural resources, how they can identify and utilise local resources and transform them into business opportunities.
- Generate income and earn a living, based on personal capacities and local resources.

An example can be given with the story of Can Pe Poko youth group. This group consists of child-headed families. Some members of the group were sponsored in vocational school for a carpentry course and were given tools but they were not able to afford the timbers to run the workshop, which they had already started. In response to their request

for assistance, AVSI organised a workshop that helped identify locally available resources, which they could utilise in their various income generating activities. A month later, these youth had arranged a local supply of timber.

TOT Life Skills Training

During follow up, the peer leaders identified the most urgent needs of young people and requested program support to help address those needs. A workshop was organised, 53 participants attending. Peer leaders were assisted in the following:

- Identifying better methods of assessing needs, sensitising and counselling the youth.
- Developing skills to disseminate information on HIV/STD transmissions and methods of control.
- Promoting income generating activities.

As a result, they were able to assist young people in their various communities. Many youth groups have formed as a result. Eventually elders, after observing the behaviour changes in their own children, gained confidence in the peer leaders and have sought advice from the peer leaders.

Business Skills Training

Many youths who have attended business skills training have started to do business using local resources. Peer leaders have developed good facilitation skills and confidence to train others. The availability of training manuals was an added advantage.

Financial Support

Financial support, ranging from capacity-building to material support, has been a great benefit, not only to the youths but to their communities as well, because young people are generating activities that help support the entire family and community. The peer leaders group in Lukole, for instance, have generated a network of support among other youth groups.

Country: Uganda

Project Title: Promoting adolescent behaviour change, increasing HIV/AIDS awareness and creating life-skills education

Implementing Partners: Watwero

Funding Partners: Eleanor Bellows Pillsbury (EBP) Fund

Contacts: Julia Matthews
juliam@womenscommission.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

Watwero is a local youth-led organization working in northern Uganda. Watwero was originally started by educated, unemployed youth who set out to generate income for themselves and has since expanded to several branches. The agency seeks to empower young people economically and socially.

The objective of the project is to reduce the vulnerability of young people to HIV/AIDS, with a focus on adolescent girls and boys. Watwero is promoting behaviour change such as safe sex practices and faithfulness to one partner, among sexually active adolescents, and abstinence as an alternative to sex. Some of the interventions used include life skills education for young people in and out of school, peer education and a teen recreation programme.

Watwero identified some of the challenges it will face in project implementation, including: young people's exposure to mass media, prevalence of adolescent sex, and the subordinate position of girls and women within the society.

Watwero expects that, as a result of the programme, adolescents will have access to better information and education that will improve knowledge about sexuality and HIV/AIDS prevention. Further, it is expected that there will be a decrease in drug use, early sexual involvement, early marriage and rape.

This project serves displaced Ugandan adolescents living in Kitgum district.

Country: Uganda

Project Title: Psychosocial empowerment to adolescent children in Wakiso, Kampala and Kayunga districts

Implementing Partners: Rubaga Youth Development Association (RYDA)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Ssenyama Samuel
ryda.org@infocom.co.ug

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

Rubaga Youth Development Association (RYDA) is a local child and youth focused non-governmental organisation founded in 1992 and based in Wakiso, Kampala and Kayunga districts. RYDA focuses on sustainable programmes for children and youth as an entry point into the community. The main activities are: child advocacy and community outreach, formal and non-formal education, sustainable farming and natural resource management, HIV/AIDS and staff capacity building and board development.

Peer Educators in the Community:

With the help of peer educators, RYDA identifies children who need immediate emotional and physical support. The association identifies and selects children who need assistance and counselling, and also children who can assist others. The peer educators provide advice and general moral support for other children in need. They also help identify willing and helpful members within their communities to care for these children.

The project is intended to support adolescents affected by and orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

Activities

- Sensitizing communities through workshops/seminars on HIV/AIDS prevention.
- Training young people about adolescent health.
- Training infected and affected adolescents in life skills.
- Carrying out home and school visits of infected and affected adolescents.
- Carrying out home-based counselling.
- Distributing nutritional food supplements and drugs to the beneficiaries.

Strategies

Communities are sensitized by providing information to children, adolescents and other community members. Life skills training is provided to adolescents affected and infected with HIV/AIDS. Special care, social and emotional comfort is also provided to

adolescents. Training is made available to community leaders, guardians, parents and caregivers.

Implementing Strategy

Community adolescent counsellors and peer-educators are of great support to the local communities. These young people are selected from the community to help promote better understanding among their peers, local leaders, volunteers, parents, guardians and care givers.

Awareness programmes

Seminars, workshops and meetings are held for adolescents with assistance from special guest counsellors, who provide the relevant information/training on HIV/AIDS prevention. The participants in this session are adolescents, guardians, parents, caregivers, peer educators and community leaders.

Country: Uganda

Project Title: Sexuality and AIDS

Implementing Partners: Gulu Youth for Action (GYFA)

Funding Partners: Eleanor Bellows Pillsbury (EBP) Fund

Contacts: Julia Matthews
juliam@womenscommission.org

Website:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

Gulu Youth for Action (GYFA) is a unique non-governmental organization run by adolescents for adolescents.

The goal of the project is to increase awareness and communication about health problems among adolescents aged 10 to 24 years in the Gulu district. GYFA hopes that through its work adolescents will:

- Be more aware of how to prevent STDs, including HIV/AIDS.

- Have a better understanding of the particular health problems facing girls, including early and forced marriages, sexual exploitation and abuse, and incidences of rape and sexual violence.

- Know where to go for information on prevention, and for counselling and treatment.

In order to accomplish its goal, GYFA seeks training from government officials, the Department of Health and local NGOs working on these issues, including PEARL (Program for Enhancing Adolescent Reproductive Health Life) and Save the Children-Denmark. At least 12 GYFA members (four from within Gulu town and two members from four internally displaced persons camps) are being trained in a training of trainers (TOT) workshop during the first quarter of this project. The training is taking place within the Gulu town. GYFA is also working closely with PEARL throughout the project, particularly to ensure access to needed tools and educational materials.

A youth-led, adolescent-friendly approach is being adopted during implementation of the project, including information and awareness raising on adolescent health through educational meetings, radio presentations and drama.

Country: Uganda, Northern

Project Title: “Against All Odds: Surviving the War On Adolescents,”
Promoting the Protection and Capacity of Ugandan and
Sudanese Adolescents in Northern Uganda

Implementing Partners: Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Julia Matthews
juliam@womenscommission.org

Website: www.womenscommission.org/projects/children/index.html

Core Documents:

- 1) “Against All Odds: Surviving the War On Adolescents, Promoting the Protection and Capacity of Ugandan and Sudanese Adolescents in Northern Uganda”
- 2) “Untapped potential: Adolescents affected by armed conflict. A review of programs and policies”
(Both reports are available at:
<http://www.womenscommission.org/reports/index.html>)

Programme Description:

In the fall of 2001, the Women’s Commission released the second participatory research study conducted with adolescents in war situations, “ Against All Odds: Surviving the War On Adolescents, Promoting the Protection and Capacity of Ugandan and Sudanese Adolescents in Northern Uganda.” More than 2,000 adolescents and adults were interviewed by dozens of their peers and the Women’s Commission in the Acholi Districts of Gulu, Kitgum and Pader in northern Uganda from May to July 2001. Based on participatory research carried out by Ugandan and Sudanese adolescents in Spring 2001, the Women’s Commission and the youth participants analyzed the data to formulate recommendations for local groups, national governments, UN agencies and international organizations.

The research revealed that adolescents are prime targets of the war in northern Uganda and southern Sudan. A hallmark of the war, which has lasted more than 15 years, has been the brutal abduction of more than 11,000 children and adolescents into the Lord’s Resistance Army. Adolescents from both countries ranked as among their most urgent concerns:

- Insecurity, abduction and murder
- Displacement

- Getting an education
- Being orphaned and lack of parental/family care.

In addition, the research revealed that adolescents face dire poverty resulting from the conflict; and experience lack of food, shelter and health care, including adolescent health care, child abuse, and sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, which increases adolescents' risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

Young people suggested the following solutions:

- Create a full-scale emergency education plan to get young people back to school and save their communities from further ruin.
- Press for peace in northern Uganda and southern Sudan and an end to untenable dependency on humanitarian assistance.
- Dismantle the internally displaced persons camps, whose overcrowded, unsanitary conditions are breeding grounds for diseases and do not protect the civilian population.

Country: Uganda, northern

Project Title: Psychosocial support program for war affected children and communities in Northern Uganda

Implementing Partners: AVSI, IRC, Community Development office of Kitgum district

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Avsi.kitgum@wfp.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

AVSI is an Italian NGO working in Northern Uganda, which encourages the participation of children and adolescents in situations of humanitarian crisis and conflict. The Programme was started in June 1998, as a two-year programme aimed at strengthening the social networks that help children and families cope with the effects of conflict, violence and insecurity.

Broad objectives:

- Develop a sustainable and coordinated community-based psychosocial support delivery system.
- Enhance and build the capacity of key players in providing psychosocial support, in particular community volunteers, teachers, peer leaders, women and elders.
- Equip adolescents and children with life skills.
- Promote safe communities and family life, so as to improve child resilience.

War-affected young people are directly involved with the programme, in particular, returned abductees, children without adequate family care, children orphaned by HIV/AIDS and children with disabilities. Indirect beneficiaries are all community members, youth groups, women's groups and elders.

The geographic area of implementation is Acholiland (northern Uganda) where, since 1987, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has perpetrated continuous attacks on civilian populations, looting their food, family tools and household utensils, burning down houses and grain stores, abducting adults and children, and wounding and murdering civilians.

Children are supported by a social network identified and strengthened at different levels:

- Enhancing the community's capacity to identify, plan and address the psychosocial needs of the children inside their community.
- Promoting economic independence.
- Promoting expression at community level.

Enhancing effective advocacy and coordination among stakeholders in psychosocial care.

Activities implemented:

- Identification of community-based organisations (CBOs).
- Training courses for CBOs.
- Social support to individual and families.
- Support to reception/ reintegration centres for formerly abducted children.
- Tracing and resettlement of formerly abducted children.
- Life skills training and psychosocial training for teachers, school management committee members, community volunteer counsellors, women and youth peer leaders.
- Specific training and mine risk education, HIV/AIDS, CBR workshops for parents of children with physical disabilities.
- Organisation of community and cultural activities such as festivals, recreational activities, sport competitions.
- Youth activities in schools.
- Counselling services in the hospital.
- Sponsorship provided to the National Counselling School.
- Support to youth for vocational training.
- Support to individuals and groups for income generating activities (business skills training, start-up capital, seed support and animal support).
- Participation in international events for advocacy.
- Production of documentation materials for advocacy.

During training sessions on psychosocial issues, life skills and business skills, young people actively participate in the design of the activities to be implemented in the communities: training sessions for other youth, recreational and educational activities, creation of peace clubs, and income generating activities. The implementation is carried out directly by young people. A final evaluation of the training sessions is conducted at the end of each training, and a long term evaluation is carried out in schools and communities under the direction of peer group leaders.

International and Regional Programmes

Region:	International (Afghanistan, Cameroon, Canada, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Japan, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Taiwan, Uganda, USA)
Project Title:	RESPECT: Refugee Education Sponsorship Program: Enhancing Communities Together
Implementing Partners:	RESPECT: Refugee Education Sponsorship Program HAYAT, Azerbaijan Winnipeg Refugee Education Network (WREN): Peacelinks, Sierra Leone Peace Pals Education Network, Sierra Leone Collectif des Associations de Jeunesse du Cameroon (CAJC) Conakry Refugee School, Guinea Zimbabwe Youth Forum, Southern Africa YACEE, Benin ACDA, Northern Uganda Schools in USA, Canada, Taiwan and Japan as well as NGOs in many countries
Funding Partners:	Volunteer run and funded to-date
Contact:	Marc Schaeffer kaemarc@escape.ca Tel: (204) 284-1919
Website:	www.winnipegrefugee.org/respect/
Core Documents:	Letter of Introduction to the programme for sponsoring schools Letter of Introduction to the programme for refugee schools RESPECT Brochure RESPECT E-zine, published twice a month. To subscribe, contact Marc Schaeffer: kaemarc@escape.ca

Programme Description:

RESPECT is an ongoing education and action programme aimed at increasing awareness of refugee issues among non-refugee youth. RESPECT is a grassroots, volunteer organization. As a grassroots/decentralized programme, RESPECT builds bridges between refugee youth and non-refugee youth. RESPECT was registered in March, 2003 and one half of the organizations board of directors are youth.

RESPECT has three components:

- Reaching out to schools around the world to encourage the dissemination of information regarding refugee issues and integration of the same into the curriculum with resources being made available to teachers and librarians;

- Introducing non refugee students to refugee students around the world through a unique letter exchange program;

- Encouraging young people to organize awareness-raising events for their peers, and fund-raising events for their sponsored refugee schools.

RESPECT University <http://www.romero-online.com/respect/university/> was also launched this year and classes are ongoing in the following subjects:

- English for Academic Purposes (EAP)

- Social Psychology

Curriculum is also being developed for:

- Basics of Statistics

- Basics of Research Methodology

RESPECT Forums <http://www.romero-online.com/respect/forum/> are also active. This provides a platform for all affiliates, coordinators, students – refugee and non-refugee, teachers and volunteers to interact with each other.

Region: International

Project Title: Hague Appeal for Peace Youth Programme

Implementing Partners: The Hague Appeal for Peace (HAP)

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Olivia Martin: The Hague Appeal for Peace:
olivia@ipb.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

The Hague Appeal for Peace (HAP) Youth Programme works to involve an international network of young activists in peace and justice campaigns and actions, in particular those that emerged from the Hague Appeal for Peace Conference in May '99.

The HAP Youth Programme has a particular focus on world-wide youth involvement in the Global Campaign for Peace Education. It encourages and supports youth involvement in the advocacy and non-formal aspects of peace education, by which young people become agents in:

- Awareness rising activities about the content and the need to teach and learn peace education.

- Advocacy efforts directed to Ministries of Education and/or School Principals.

- Exploring creative ways of initiating peace education in the non-formal and out-of-school sector through use of internet discussion groups, street theatre and drama, community seminars, symposiums and debates, music, dance, story telling and the arts.

There are currently a number of youth groups in different continents working with the guidance and close support of the HAP Youth Programme. Ten of these, based in Sweden, Serbia and Montenegro, Malawi, Nigeria, Ghana, Argentina, Spain, the Philippines, US and Colombia, are proving to be very active in mobilising young people and initiating a wide range of actions to advance the Global Campaign for Peace Education in their own countries, as well as in their wider regions.

Region: Nine countries in three regions of Africa, Americas and Southeast Asia

Project Title: Children as Peace-Builders (CAP)

Implementing Partners: Defence for Children International (DCI) and DCI-Canada

Funding Partners:

Contacts: Linda Dale, DCI-Canada
ldale@web.ca

Web site: <http://www.childrenaspeacebuilders.ca>

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

This project is dedicated to young peace-builders living in conflict and post-conflict situations. It is a vote of confidence in their efforts to restore their communities and to uphold the rights of war-affected children and youth. It recognises their capacity to develop innovative, cost-effective strategies to meet those needs. It is committed to supporting and strengthening this work through the development of an international network that builds their capacities, as well as their influence as voices for peace.

The CAP Network Project will work in nine countries in three regions (Africa, Americas and Southeast Asia). In each of these regions the project will combine support for local and country initiatives with training to broaden understanding of peace-building issues and skills. An elected international network of youth representatives will bring these experiences to the larger community, engaging with government officials, NGOs and taking part in relevant conferences. The Project will also invite Canadian youth to support the CAP Network and learn from its experiences.

The CAP Network Project is informed by young peoples' experiences of war and energised by their determination to transform these situations to respect human rights and offer more positive alternatives for children and youth.

The CAP Network Project is sponsored by DCI- Canada. DCI has considerable experience in working on this issue, having recently completed a project with young people in Angola, Bosnia, Burma-Thailand, Cambodia, Colombia and Uganda and also having co-ordinated the international youth delegation at Canada's Winnipeg Conference on War-Affected Children. Both of these activities have established the credibility of DCI-Canada and increased understanding of the complexities involved.

The purpose of the CAP project is to increase the peace-building and conflict prevention through building capacities and listening to the voices of young people in nine war-affected countries. The project will work at the local, regional and international level supporting a series of activities. By the conclusion of this 16-month project we expect that:

At the local level, the quality, effectiveness and credibility of young people's peace-building work will have increased substantially. This work will focus on issues of particular concern to children and youth. There will also be a substantial increase in the number of young people involved in this work.

At the regional level youth leaders will be identified and their capacity as peace-builders will increase. This will include both their knowledge and analysis of conflict transformation issues at the regional level (as they pertain to youth) as well as their skill and effectiveness as participant's conflict transformation.

At the international level young peace-builders will have created a framework that supports their presence within the international community as a voice upholding the rights of young people in conflict and post-conflict situations. Specifically, this will include the development of policy guidelines and the presentation of these findings at conferences and to relevant organisations.

The project's main outcome is the development of a global network for young peace/human rights activists working and living in conflict and post-conflict situations. The project's 16 months of activities will create the necessary structures, policies, skills and mechanisms to make this possible.

While each level of the Network (local, regional and international) will have specific activities, they all will relate to the themes of representation, recuperation and realisation.

To represent means to symbolise or stand for something. The foundation of this project is based on an understanding of the lives of child soldiers, refugees, displaced youth and others living in situations of conflict. The project's goal will be to act or speak up through drama projects, workshops, policy statements and presentations.

To recuperate means to recover from an injury or to restore something that has been lost. In conflict situations many young people are suffering from the consequences of having their rights violated. The project's objective will be to design youth-to-youth programs to support a process of restoration and recovery for these young people.

To realise is to know or understand a situation; to achieve something that is hoped for. Through trainings, exchanges and participation in peace-building events the project's goal will be to increase youth's capacity for peace-building work and the audience willing to listen to their views.

Equality of opportunity, peer support and reliance on indigenous expertise are core principles that will guide the project's work. The project is structured to encourage transparency, participation and supportive but critical sharing of experiences and knowledge. It will be organised as a partnership between adults and youth, one where each side has something to contribute in a joint commitment to the rights of young people

in conflict and post-conflict situations. The main axis of the project is its community level peace-building work.

Country examples:

The Children as Peace-builders (CAP) Project is a joint venture amongst young people from six countries where there is a war or a war recently ended: Angola, Bosnia, Burma-Thailand, Cambodia, Colombia and Uganda. In CAP young people worked together to identify their concerns and contribute to peace-building and the restoration of their communities. A variety of approaches were developed in order to make progress in a relatively short time.

CAP worked with international and local NGOs, youth run organizations and ad-hoc coalitions in Angola, Bosnia, Burma-Thailand, Cambodia, Colombia and Uganda. During the two years the conflicts in several of these countries changed dramatically. In others the overall situation shifted:

In Angola CAP worked in Huambo province, an area that has been highly disputed throughout this country's 30-year war. This history has created a politically charged environment where every action is assumed to have a political motive. Youth actions are particularly scrutinized and monitored as both sides have vied for their loyalty.

With the signing of the peace accord in the spring of 2002, many of these dynamics have changed for the better. The possibility for youth involvement in peace promotion has transformed from a narrow range of activities to one with broad scope and possibilities. However, the overall atmosphere still calls for caution.

In Bosnia CAP worked in Zvornick, a town on the border with Serbia and Montenegro. In late 2000, the international community was just beginning to pull out of the region. As this trend accelerated, there was a corresponding increase in hostility against the donor world as well as a fixation on fundraising to the point that this became an important factor in the discussion of all peace-building work.

On the border between Myanmar and Thailand the security situation for refugees is always volatile, particularly for those involved in social justice work. During the project there were times of great difficulty. The secret police were and are a constant threat. The security situation for refugees in Myanmar (Burma) continues to be quite tense, particularly for members of the Shan Women's Network who have incensed the military because of their report documenting the rape against females by the SPDC.

Cambodia is one of the world's poorest countries. However, there is a feeling of hope developing in this country, as well as a growing potential for change and the need for Cambodians to take responsibility for their country's development.

Colombia has been in a state of war for almost a half century. While the level of hostilities constantly changes, there is an ever-present feeling of insecurity. In the short time of the CAP Project the country has vacillated between hopes for peace and despair

over increasing levels of violence. Since late spring 2002, violence has been increasing and the International Red Cross estimates that there will be approximately 195,000 new internally displaced persons in 2002.

In Northern Uganda the violence has also fluctuated tremendously. In 2001, there was a prolonged period of inactivity on the part of the rebel Lords Resistance Army. Northern Ugandan residents were seriously talking about peace and reconciliation. These hopes were destroyed in mid-2002 as the LRA resumed its campaign of terror. The situation in Northern Uganda continues to be volatile and violent.

CAP'S work plan included an ambitious set of objectives. While many NGOs had called for the direct involvement of war-affected young people in programming work, no group has actually taken on this task at the level CAP proposed. CAP gave youth both programming and the advisory responsibilities, an interesting but challenging combination. It was important to create a supportive but flexible structure, one guided by certain principles and sustained by a set of methodologies.

Region: Middle East, the Balkans, South Asia, and Cyprus.

Project Title: Bringing adolescents together in war-affected regions

Implementing Partners: Seeds of Peace

Contact: Dena Fisher, Seeds of Peace:
dena@seedsofpeace.org

Web site:

Core Documents:

Programme Description:

Seeds of Peace is a non-profit, non-political organisation dedicated to providing teenagers from areas of conflict with the leadership skills required to promote coexistence and peace. While the organisation focuses primarily on the Middle East, its programs have expanded to include other regions of conflict. As of 2003, participants come from the Middle East, the Balkans, South Asia, and Cyprus.

The entry point for the Seeds of Peace program is its international camp in Maine. Working with experienced facilitators and staff, these teenagers participate in a wide variety of coexistence, educational, and recreational activities designed to create mutual understanding and respect. On focus of the Seeds of Peace programme has been to bring Arab and Israeli teenagers together before fear, mistrust and prejudice blind them from seeing the human face of their enemy. Seeds of Peace goes beyond international agreements and treaties. It reverses the legacy of hatred by nurturing lasting friendships that become the basis for mutual understanding and respect. By training these young leaders in conflict resolution skills, Seeds of Peace helps them become the seeds from which an enduring peace will grow.

Each year more than 300 outstanding Egyptian, Israeli, Jordanian, Palestinian, Moroccan, Tunisian, Qatari, Yemeni and other Middle Eastern teenagers are chosen from more than 2,000 applicants to participate in the program. Selected by their respective governments without regard to economic or social background, and based solely on academic performance and leadership ability, these young people are likely to become tomorrow's leaders.

Due to its success, in 1998, Seeds of Peace began to branch out to other conflict regions. Seeds of Peace now hosts a Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot delegation each summer and has first-generation U.S. immigrants from Portland Maine, as well as participants from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, the former Yugoslavia (including Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo) and Romania.

In 2001, Seeds of Peace began its program with Indian and Pakistani youth and, in 2002, Seeds of Peace welcomed an Afghan delegation to the Seeds of Peace International Camp. Since 1993, over 2,000 teens from 22 nations have graduated from Seeds of Peace.

SECTION TWO

Youth Groups and Networks

Afghan Communicator (AC)

Contact: Rameen Javid Moshref
Executive Director
ACMojala@aol.com
YoungAfghans@hotmail.com

Website: www.afghancommunicator.com

Description:

Afghan Communicator (AC) was founded in 1997 as an academic, cultural and literary magazine. AC is a community-based, grass-root organization dedicated to education, advocacy, and youth leadership. AC's main focus is the Afghan and Muslim communities in New York. They also serve the larger community in New York, as well as the broader Afghan community.

Afghan Communicator is working to educate the public about Afghanistan, Islam, and the Afghan community. Seeking to improve the productivity and participation of the Afghan community, AC works with other community-based organizations to empower the Afghan community by referral to proper sources of information. AC organizes a number of cultural and academic activities to introduce the larger community to the Afghan community.

Africa Alive – Youth AIDS Prevention Initiative

Contact: Jennifer Delaney: jdelaney@jhuccp.org
Kate Roberts: kroberts@psi.org

Website: www.africaalive.org/youthaids.htm

Description:

Africa Alive is a network of African youth organizations that promote AIDS prevention and safe sexual behaviour through entertainment. Youth AIDS Prevention is an initiative dedicated to protecting the world's youth from HIV/AIDS by providing at-risk youth with the information, skills, and HIV/AIDS prevention products and services that they need to practice healthier behaviours.

Africa Alive is a multi-nation initiative to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS among African youth through synergistic partnerships. The project has five key components: communication, advocacy, fundraising, networking, and capacity building.

Be The Change

Contact:

Website: www.peacechild.org/bethechange/

Description:

Be The Change is a youth empowerment program that gives young people the chance to make changes in their community. Since its creation in 1999, hundreds of Be The Change projects have been launched by young people from around the world. Be The Change project proposals come from young people who have identified a problem in their community and have decided to do something about it. Be The Change introduces young people to sustainable development in a lively entertaining way.

Children As Partners Alliance (CAPA)

Contact: c/o International Institute for Child
Rights and Development
Centre for Global Studies
University of Victoria
PO Box 1700 STN CSC
Victoria, BC V8W 3W2
Canada
Phone: 00 1 250 472 4762
capa@uvic.ca

Website: www.crin.org/childrenaspartners

Description:

Children as Partners is an evolving international initiative focused on advancing meaningful child participation at all levels of decision-making.

There are many national, regional and international initiatives supporting children's participation (including war-affected countries) by a range of agencies, but there is no forum through which these experiences are being drawn together, analysed, disseminated and fostered. There is therefore a need for a strong international resource group to spearhead the convergence of children's and adults' accumulated experience and expertise to enhance children's participation. Children As Partners Alliance (CAPA) is proposed to be established to serve this function. It will be an international research and resource alliance that aims to:

- promote a network of lead agencies with a common understanding and commitment to promoting children's participation;
- take this work forward, with children, in a manner consistent with the principles of participation;
- develop common frameworks for high standards of practice for programming, research, policy dialogue and advocacy;
- promote a collective agenda to engage in high level advocacy to realize children's right to participate in decisions affecting all aspects of their lives;
- improve dialogue between key players - children and adults - from the local to the global to facilitate links between theory and practice, networking, alliance building and information dissemination;
- support the development of child-led organisations and participatory research by children and young people.

The foundational partners are committed to hearing from other child-led and civil society organisations interested in implementing the UNCRC and furthering meaningful child participation. A consultation process has been undertaken to this end.

Children's Peace Theatre

Contact: Robert Morgan, Artistic Director
Phone: (416) 755 2131 - Fax: (416) 755 4086
Robert@Roseneath.ca or
ministry@interlog.com

Website: <http://valuedesign.ca/theatre/main.html>

Description:

Children's Peace Theatre is an exciting initiative that began in January 2001 in Toronto, Canada. The Theatre's goal is to help children of the world become agents of peace through the creation and presentation of theatrical performances. The Theatre seeks to establish exchange programs within and between countries and regions of the world. It will address the reality of violence in our communities and our world by encouraging the establishment of a lifestyle of peace and non-violence among children.

The Children's Peace Theatre helps young people understand and give expression to personal realities that may be otherwise impossible for them to comprehend or to voice. These realities include violence, loss of family, deprivation, abuse and poverty. Theatre is a healing art and wonderfully suited to children because it is in essence, child's play. Theatre – including music, dance and movement – is one of the primary means of human communication. Theatre gives children a positive experience of community – both as they work and interact with fellow actors and in the actual performances. Children's Peace Theatre's intention is to see this sense of community, which develops through local performances and workshops, broaden to include other communities of the world as the children travel to perform.

Children's Peace Theatre wants to establish a theatre-based peacemaking experience for children around the world.

**Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CDHR)
Sierra Leone**

Contact: Gibril Massie Bah
gibrilmbah@hotmail.com

Website:

Description:

The Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CDHR) conducts public education and training on various issues affecting youth, including human rights, civic education, the TRC and domestic violence. CDHR also records human rights abuses and provides counselling.

Do Something

Contact: 423 West 55th Street
8th Floor
New York, NY 10019
Fax: 212-582-1307
E-mail: mail@dosomething.org

Website: www.dosomething.org

Description:

Do Something is a nationwide network of young people who know they can make a difference in their communities and take action to change the world around them. As part of Do Something, young people are asked what they want to do to make things better, and then they are given the resources and support to bring their unique vision to life.

Do something is all about young people's ideas, solutions and visions for a better community. As part of Do Something, more than 4 million young people are taking action to improve their communities – from mentoring at-risk children, to cleaning up the environment, to helping gang members choose peace. Do Something is helping more than 6,000 community organizations to involve young people as leaders in their efforts to create a better world.

Free The Children

Contact: Free The Children (International Office)
Suite 300, 7368 Yonge Street
Thornhill, Ontario
L4J 8H9 Canada
Tel: (905) 760-9382
Fax: (905) 760-9157
E-mail: info@freethechildren.com

Website: www.freethechildren.org/

Description:

Free The Children is an international network of children helping children at a local, national and international level through representation, leadership and action. It was founded by Craig Kielburger in 1995, when he was 12 years old. The primary goal of the organization is not only to free children from poverty and exploitation, but to also free children and young people from the idea that they are powerless to bring about positive social change and to improve the lives of their peers.

Free The Children is unlike any other children's charity in the world, as it is an organization by, of and for children that fully embodies the notion that children and young people themselves can be leaders of today in creating a more just, equitable and sustainable world.

Global Youth Action Network

Contact: Benjamin Quinto
Benjamin@youthlink.org
us@youthlink.org
Tel: 212-661-6111

Website: <http://youthlink.takingitglobal.org/home.html>

Description:

The Global Youth Action Network is a growing collaboration among youth and youth organizations that are committed to uniting their efforts to improve our world. With member organizations in 177 countries (including many conflict-affected countries), the Network is facilitating greater collaboration to improve youth engagement and participation in decision-making. GYAN also provides support to young people who take positive action to improve their communities and recognition for the amazing contributions young people are making every day.

Gulu Youth For Action (GYFA) - Uganda

Contact: Akello Betty Openy and Ochora Emmanuel
arlpi@africaonline.co.ug

Website:

Description:

The solidarity built during the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children's participatory adolescent-led research project (May-July 2001) led the adolescent researchers involved to form an organization called Gulu Youth For Action (GYFA). The Gulu Youth For Action advocated for the advance for the common cause of adolescents and young people in northern Uganda to mitigate the socio-economic impact of war on them.

GYFA is working to:

- Ensure better educational opportunities for children and adolescents, especially for girls and the internally displaced.

- Increase awareness and communication about HIV/AIDS, STIs and other adolescent health problems, in order to reduce and prevent the incidence of these among adolescents.

- Mobilize youth to work on peace/conflict resolution.

- Build the capacity of youth and youth groups.

Independent Youth Forum (IYF) Sierra Leone

Contact: Contact: President: Mr. John Paul Bai
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Tel: 232 (0) 76 619 561
Tel: 232 (0) 22 228 454
john.iyf@hotmail.com

Website:

Description:

Independent Youth Forum (IYF) is dedicated to promoting youth unity and effective participation in Sierra Leone. Toward that end, IYF coordinates over 200 member youth organizations and builds the capacity of youth leaders and organizations through education and leadership training.

Kosovar Youth Council (KYC)

Contact: President Amir Haxhikadriu:
amirish_99@yahoo.com

Website:

Description:

The Kosovar Youth Council (KYC) was founded in the Albanian refugee camps during 1999 and reconstituted itself in Kosovo after repatriation. It provides an excellent example of how adolescent and youth activism can be supported to promote the recovery of communities in crisis and how their skills and enthusiasm can be transferred back to their country of origin after the emergency.

KYC's work with young people has opened doors across ethnic divides in western Kosovo. KYC members have reached out to Serb young people in the Serb enclave of Orahovac and to Roma-Egyptians in Gjakova, helping them to form their own youth groups and advocating with them for the fulfilment of their needs and rights.

MAGIC - Media Activities and Good Ideas by, with and for Children

Contact: Chris Schuepp
cschuepp@unicef.org

Website: <http://www.unicef.org/magic/>

Description:

Media Activities and Good Ideas by, with and for Children (MAGIC) is a one-stop-shop of information, advice, resources and practical examples that aims to inspire organizations and individuals, both young and old, to use the power of the media to support children's rights, including a number of countries affected by conflict.

The MAGIC website was developed by UNICEF's Division of Communication with funding from the Norwegian Government. It grew out of the 1999 Oslo Challenge, which called on media professionals, educators, governments, organizations, parents, children and young people themselves to recognise the enormous potential of the media to make the world a better place for children.

The heart of MAGIC is the MAGIC Bank, a searchable, expandable database of examples of best practices by, with and for children across nearly every aspect of the media.

Makeni Union of Youth Groups (MUYOG)

Contact: Gibril Massie Bah
gibrilmbah@hotmail.com

Website:

Description:

MUYOG was created by bringing three separate youth groups together in 1995 and now has 36 member groups. MUYOG organizes education for children and town improvements, focussing on leadership training, micro-credit, civic education for young people and facilitating reintegration of adolescents and youth.

Mandate The Future

Contact: Mandate the Future
713, D B Wijesinghe Mawatha
Pelawatte,
Batharamulla
Sri Lanka
Tel: 0094 (74) 074 419141
Fax: 0094 (1) 01 564225
E-mail: buddika@mandatethefuture.org
E-mail: info@mandatethefuture.org

Website: www.mandatethefuture.org

Description:

Mandate The Future uses an internet forum to bring a youth focus to sustainable development issues. It is a worldview international foundation project designed to harness the power of the internet to the advantage of youth across the globe. Mandate The Future is created and driven by youth. It gives them an opportunity to voice their views and concerns on issues that affect them the most. The project seeks to involve youth in the policy making process and be in-charge of their future. Mandate The Future through its strong network base, both online as well as at the grassroots level, thrives to advocate youth concerns, as well as provide a forum for a greater understanding and a freer exchange of ideas between youth worldwide.

National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS)

Contact: MOHIADIN Mohammed Shengeb, Chairman
Tel: (291-1) 124 751
Fax: (291-1) 122904
P.O.Box 1042, Asmara
shengeb@eol.com.er / nueyspro@eol.com.er

Website:

Description:

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) is an organization with about 135,000 members aged 14-35 from all 6 Zobas of the country. While members are mostly in urban areas, there is representation from rural areas down to the village level. NUEYS has opened youth centres with clinics that provide medical and counselling services. Youth are encouraged to come to the centres/clinics through games, computer training and internet access. Further, through use of art, puppet shows and drama, youth centres provide information on adolescent health, focusing on STI/HIV/AIDS prevention and harmful practices in particular.

No War Zone

Contacts: Dr. Samantha Nut
No War Zone
C/o War Child Canada
401 Richmond Street West, Suite 420
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 3A8 Canada
Tel (001) 416. 971.7474
Toll Free in North America: 1.866.WARCHILD
Fax: (001) 416. 971.7946
info@nowarzone.org

Website: www.nowarzone.org

Description:

An initiative of War Child Canada, No War Zone aims to create a youth-driven network in support of human rights and war-affected youth. A forum for discussion and action, No War Zone will provide the opportunity for young people to connect with their peers around the world, build sustainable projects together, and share their creativity in a dynamic online forum.

The No War Zone website includes:

- A workspace for young people around the world to build and implement collaborative projects to benefit their communities.
- Online resources for youth and educators on international humanitarian issues.
- A forum for youth expression through art, photographs, music and writing.
- A platform for discussion through chats and discussion boards.

Youth on the Pakistan/Afghanistan Border, in Colombia, and in Canada are the first participants in the network. Soon young people from the Thai/Burmese Border and Sierra Leone will also contribute.

One Day Foundation

Contact: Benjamin Quinto
Youth Development Director, ONE DAY Foundation
Director, United Nations Assembly Project
PO Box 1052
Sedona, AZ 86339
Tel: 800-580-9350
Fax: 520-204-1216
E-mail: info@oneday.org

Website: www.oneday.org

Description:

The One Day Foundation is dedicated to supporting the dreams and visions of young people throughout the world. First designed as an educational tool to teach students how to express their passion, the result was far more inspirational than expected. The initial educational tool mission was 1) to create 24 hours of world peace, and 2) to provide young people with a platform from which their voices could be heard. From this work, the One Day Foundation was created. One Day was founded in January 1994 by a group of high school students who set out to create a project that would empower and give hope to young people around the world.

Peace Links

Contact: Vandy Kanyako, Jr.
Ajibu A jeebs Kabba
46 Circular Road
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Tel: 232-22-272583
Fax: 232-22-224439
plabcentrevndajj@yahoo.com
kanyakovandy@hotmail.com
artajeebz_abc@hotmail.com

Website:

Description:

Peace Links was founded in 1990 with the main aim of empowering young people to step forward for positive change in their communities. The organization is registered with the government of Sierra Leone and is funded by a Holland based NGO called Children at Risk. It is staffed by young voluntary workers who are poised to create a difference in the lives of young people.

Peace Links in collaboration with the World Conference on Children for Peace (WCCP) intends to open structured peace clubs in the schools visited, and when funds are available the programme will be replicated in other schools, and institutions within the length and breadth of the country.

Peace Pals Education Network – Sierra Leone

Contact: Alex P. Columbus
30 Pike Street
Brookfields
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Website:

Description:

Peace Pals Education Network (PPEN) was formed in 2000 and has as its' mission statement:

A drive to achieve peace by engaging the minds of children through counseling and advice.

To facilitate programmes and initiatives geared towards the development of the children within the district.

To utilize every opportunity to foster reconciliation, reintegration and national unity among children in various schools and communities.

The creation of Peace Pals Exchange through information sharing, academic excellence, and awareness raising in the area of children's rights and responsibilities, helping to create a peaceful environment

To enhance the development and protection of children for their future.

Aims and Objectives are:

To establish community-to-community and local and international peace pal exchange of correspondence, culture, customs.

Formation of clubs in various schools and communities to foster academic excellence among children.

Establish children's conflict resolution council in schools to compliment the effort of teachers in the district.

Formation of recreational facilities to enhance cordial relation among schools

Formation of study groups in various communities and making positive contributions in the subject areas, thereby improving academic capabilities.

The Vision is:

To participate in post-war recovery programmes in war-ravaged Sierra Leone through community development initiatives for devastated homes, war affected children, returnees, vulnerable children and those injured in war and their dependents.

To forge partnerships with NGO donor institutions, line ministries, and community-based organizations who are engaged in support programmes for Sierra Leone recovery.

To help children in Moyamba district by encouraging more positive thoughts and improving academic performance.

Postpessimists, UN administered province of Kosovo

Contact: Hana Nixha
hnixha@yahoo.com
+377 44 185 510
+381 38 543 084

Website:

Description:

During the 1993 former Yugoslavia war, two conferences were held in Austria. The first UN human rights conference was in Vienna and the second youth conference was held in Murzsteg, where Belgrade, Pristina and Zagreb youth participated. It was a unique opportunity for the young people to understand, communicate and cooperate in post-conflict peace-building projects. Youth groups were formed in a number of cities in the former Yugoslavia and all came together under the same name: PostPessimists (those who overcame the pessimism, but are not yet ready for optimism).

Three keywords underline the network's idea: communication, participation and creativeness. Therefore the main goal of the network is to enable the region's youth to:

- Meet and make friendships;
- Exchange ideas, opinions and experiences;
- Engage in local and regional importance projects;
- Develop young people's potential for participating in positive, democratic processes in their own regions.

The main goal of the PostPessimists is to improve and spread the network of active, democratic and progressive youth groups with different cultural, political and ethnical backgrounds in order to:

- Promote culture, peace, human rights and non-violent communications;
- Overcome prejudice;
- Improve cooperation with other local and international NGO's

PostPessimists can be found in:

Zagreb, Rijeka, Subotica, Belgrade, Pristina, Nis, Banja Luka, Tuzla, Sarajevo, Olovo, Mostar, Jablanica, Skopje, Podgorica, Kikinda, Rogaska Slatina, Oslo, Graz.

Refugee Youth In America

Contact: Refugee Youth in America
C/o Governess Films
630 Ninth Ave. Suite 415
New York, NY 10036
Tel: 1-917-554-4126

Producer/Director: Lisa Russell: lisa@refugeeyouthinamerica.com

Project Manager: Don Brugel: don@refugeeyouthinamerica.com

Website: www.refugeeyouthinamerica.com

Description:

Refugee Youth in America is an innovative public education campaign aimed at using youth-friendly mediums (such as film, TV, music and the arts) to increase awareness of refugee issues in the United States. Refugee Youth in America blends film/video, music, and multimedia with community activism to increase awareness of refugee issues. Youth groups, relief agencies, community development organizations, hate crime agencies, filmmakers and others are encouraged to join in educating America about refugee youth in celebration of World Refugee Day.

Sierra Leone Youth Empowerment Organization (SLYEO)

Contact: President: Charles Lahai
Freetown, Sierra Leone
mobile: 232 (0) 76 609 451
Tel: 232 (0) 22 234 537
slyeo6@hotmail.com

Website:

Description:

Sierra Leone Youth Empowerment Organization (SLYEO) works to increase the capacity of young people and their opportunities for self-development, thereby making them responsible for their own development. Established in 1995, SLYEO has developed a youth and community network and advocates for youth participation in national development as well as national structures that respond to youth needs.

South Asian Task Force on Children's Participation

Contacts: Concern for Children and Environment - Nepal
Swoyambhu, PO Box 4543
Pandepant, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 00 977 1 282809
Fax: 00 977 1 277033
E-Mail: concern@mos.com.np

Website:

Description:

The South Asian Task Force on Children's Participation consists of 7 child representatives from 7 children's organizations and an equal number of adult representatives from NGOs working on the issue of child labour and children's rights, including the rights of children in war-affected countries.

The task force is organized to ensure children's participation in South Asia at all levels of action related to child labour and children's rights.

In order to realize children's participation, as defined by the Task Force, a plan of action was formulated for the period of 2003-2006. The plan aims to enhance the understanding of children's participation, and to create spaces for children to participate in their families, communities, schools, governments, and in informing policy.

Taking it Global

Contact: takingitglobal.org
(416) 928-3362 x4225

Website: www.youthlink.takingitglobal.org/home.html

Description:

Taking it Global (TIG) is an international organization, led by youth, empowered by technology. TIG brings together young people in more than 190 countries (including many conflict-affected countries) within international networks to collaborate on concrete projects addressing global problems and creating positive change.

Taking It Global is about encouraging young people to believe in themselves and their ability to make a difference in the world. Driven by youth, the organizations goal is to foster a sense of leadership and social entrepreneurship through the innovative use of technology, creating meaningful experiences for young people around the world. In partnership with the Global Youth Action Network, the organization offers recognition for youth action and support for youth voice.

Activities:

- Create a global platform for dialogue, self-expression, community involvement, and cultural exploration to ensure that the voices of youth are heard and that their initiatives are supported and acted upon.

- Develop and support a peer-to-peer learning environment where youth teach each other through workshops aimed at skill-building, showcasing projects, and building mentorship relationships among the network.

- Foster partnerships with like-minded organizations in order to provide access to resources, and utilize our technology platform to increase organizational capacity through information sharing and knowledge networks.

The Centre for the Coordination of Youth Activities (CCYA) Sierra Leone

Contact:

Contact: President: Ngolo Katta
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Center for the Coordination of Youth Activities
Tel: 232 (0) 76 606 419
ccyayouthvoice22@yahoo.co.uk

Website:

Description:

The Centre for the Coordination of Youth Activities CCYA works toward the empowerment of youth through effective coordination of youth activities. The Centre enhances the capacity of youth groups throughout the country, 400 of which are CCYA members, and promotes and protects the rights of youth

The National Peer Helpers Association

Contact: NPHA
PO Box 32272
Kansas City, MO 64171-5272
Toll Free Phone: 877-314-7337
Toll Free Fax: 866-314-7337

Website: www.peerhelping.org/

Description:

The National Peer Helpers Association (NPHA) is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to provide leadership and promote excellence in the field of peer helping. With members throughout the world, NPHA has become the pre-eminent international support organization for peer helping professionals. The NPHA offers an annual conference, training opportunities, professional development, a newsletter, a peer helping listserv and the Peer Facilitator Quarterly. Peers do not replace licensed or certified professionals or practitioners, but serve as an extension of the services these professionals provide. Through much research and evaluation, peer programs have been found to be one of the most proven and effective prevention strategies.

United Nations Youth Agenda

Contact:

Website: www.un.org/esa/socdev/nyin

Description:

The United Nations aims to enhance awareness of the global situation of youth and of the rights and aspirations of young people. It works towards greater participation of youth in the social and economic life of their societies. Find out more about the UN Youth Agenda, and youth participation on this website.

United Youth International (UYI)

Contact:

Website: www.unitedyouth.org

Description:

United Youth International (UYI) believes it is critical to bring all ages of people, of all parts of the world together to create a shared vision about the future of our world. UYI recognizes that by providing youth the proper framework and assistance in understanding local, regional, national and global issues, their natural enthusiasm, intelligence and energy will bring forward the best in them.

It is UYI's intention to create a new generation of young leaders in the United States and across the globe through the use of Internet-based dialogues, international school-to-school partnerships and student exchanges, and face-to-face dialogues. UYI's website is the point of access for participating in these programs. Their goal is to link members with similar interests, projects and initiatives to coordinate a wide range of service learning projects which could be simultaneously organized in many different parts of the world, including countries affected by conflict.

In the past United Youth International has hosted a forum for educating youth in times of conflict. The forum provided a platform for those interested in the issue of children in conflict to discuss the effects of violent conflict on the education of young people living in conflict areas, examining existing efforts to limit the adverse affects of war on the education of young people, and determine next steps and recommendations for governments and relevant stake holders in responding to this issue

Voices of Youth

Contact: Amber Oliver – Coordinator, Voices of Youth
aeoliver@unicef.org

Website: <http://www.unicef.org/voy/news/>

Description:

Voices of Youth is an interactive website, launched in 1995, which promotes self-expression among young people. The website is a unique forum that brings children together from around the world to engage in debate and discussion, hear what other children have to say, and share their own thoughts on global issues. Although computer access is not usually available in situations of armed conflict, the website's chat room on children and war gives children of all ages an opportunity to learn about topics ranging from child soldiers and refugees to trauma and landmines.

War Affected Children Association (WACA) Uganda

Contact: Oloya Victor and Herve Cheuzeville
P.O. box 2166
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Website:

Description:

War Affected Children Association WACA is an association organized by and comprised of former child abductees, ex-child soldiers, landmine survivors and other victims of war in northern Uganda.

The objectives of WACA are:

- Active lobbying and advocacy in favour of all child victims of the war in northern Uganda.
- Coordination and exchange with other war victims' youth associations, in neighbouring countries and the rest of the world.
- Provide assistance to other organizations in the identification process of former abductees.
- Provide moral support and counsel to child abductees who have just returned, and to recent child landmine survivors and any other victims of war.
- Assist other organizations in the setting up of their sponsorship programmes.
- Campaign with fellow victims of war on issues such as HIV/AIDS and other STDs.

Watwero – Northern Uganda

Contact: Ronald Opira,
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Web site:

Description:

Watwero, which means “We can manage” or “We are able”, is one of the few youth-led NGOs in northern Uganda. Based in Kitgum, it was started in 1998 by educated, unemployed youth, whose first several dozen members set out to keep busy and attempt to generate some income for themselves. Watwero has since received funding and other support from a variety of organizations including Africa Network 2000, UNDP, AVSI and ASSET, Meeting Point, Kitgum District, the Women’s Commission, IRC and others.

Today Watwero has several branches and seeks to empower young people economically and socially. They have undertaken a variety of income-generation projects, including farming, poultry, fishery, pig and rabbit rearing and brick-laying and maintain an engineering and carpentry workshop to utilize the skills of many of its members, a little less than 30 percent of whom are female. Many of its members, who mostly range in age from 17 to 30, have been trained in HIV/AIDS sensitization and have conducted awareness-raising activities in schools. They have also been engaged in peace education and peace club activities. With this research study, Watwero is also increasing its capacity as an organization that advocates for young people in all of the areas described. Watwero continues to remain in need of support and encouragement to build its organizational and management capacity.

Youth Advocate Program International

Contact: 4545 42nd Street, NW Suite 209
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Website: www.yapi.org

Description:

Youth Advocate Program International (YAPI) works with and for young people worldwide giving voice and visibility to new ways of improving the lives of children in the 21st century. YAP International program priorities include advocacy, education and youth participation. The program serves as an information clearinghouse, targeting urgent and emerging issues such as the use of child soldiers, child slavery and the execution of youthful offenders. Located in Washington DC, YAP International educates decision makers and coordinates activities with other advocacy groups and youth-serving organizations.

Youth Approach for Development & Cooperation (YADC)

Contact: M.W. Faruque, Chief Coordinator
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Website:

Description:

YADC is a Youth Network, and also a national representative of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, and campaigns on development and environmental issues.

Youth In Action

Contact: Mr. Peter Raducha – Executive Director
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Youth in Action Campaign
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Description:

The Youth In Action Campaign serves as an umbrella to provide programs, recognition, and incentives for youth-initiated activities that are improving communities and our nation. The campaign was launched in 1996 to provide a sustainable vehicle for a national voice of youth to address their most important issues and concerns. The Youth In Action campaign includes corporations, foundations and over one hundred non-profit affiliates who distribute program materials and create youth outreach and recognition. Youth In Action's programs and materials have the capacity to directly reach over 40 million young Americans as well as their teachers and families each year. Youth In Action works to assure greater recognition for the voices, ideas and solutions of youth to improve citizenship and inspire hope in this generation and in generations to come.

Youth of Yugoslav Association Against AIDS – Youth of JAZAS

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Description:

Youth of Yugoslav association against AIDS - Youth of JAZAS - is a humanitarian, nongovernmental organisation created in 1994. Youth of JAZAS gathers young people, and high school and university students. The organisation's work is based on two fields: HIV/AIDS prevention programme and administering psycho-social support to PLWHA. So far the Youth of JAZAS has spread its work through 11 branch offices all over FR Yugoslavia with the head office being in Belgrade. Volunteers of Youth of JAZAS are young, creative, educated and capable. Currently the membership of the organisation includes more than 6000 young people and the number is continually increasing.