



# EQUIP3 / Youth Trust Earning and Learning for Out-of-School Youth

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## **EQUIP3 / Youth Trust Combined Quarterly Reports October - December 2004 January – March 2005 April – June 2005**

**Submitted by  
EQUIP3, Cooperative  
Agreement  
No. GDG-A-00-03-  
00010-00**



**EQUIP3 / Youth Trust Consortium:** Education Development Center, Inc. • Academy for Educational Development • Catholic Relief Services • International Council on National Youth Policy • International Youth Foundation • National Youth Employment Coalition • National Youth Leadership Council • Opportunities Industrialization Centers International • Partners of the Americas • Plan International Childreach • Sesame Workshop • Streetkids International • World Learning •

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## **Executive Summary**

During the quarters between September 2004 and June 2005, EQUIP3 / Youth Trust significantly expanded its associate awards, hosted First Lady Laura Bush at the site of their Afghanistan associate award, increased its core award activities, further developed the Youth Community of Practice and the Youth Advisory Committee, hosted its first annual meeting of USAID and EQUIP3 staff and partners, and increased the number of countries engaged in EQUIP3 activities.

In June of 2005, EQUIP3 / Youth Trust acquired an additional award in West Bank/Gaza, launching the beginnings of a Palestinian Youth Congress and other activities, which will be implemented in partnership with EQUIP3's associate, International Youth Foundation. In addition, EQUIP3 / Youth Trust has been awarded more funds to augment its Haiti award, and launching a teacher training institute as part of the Afghanistan award. EQUIP3 / Youth Trust's core award activities have increased as well, engaging additional countries through the Collaborative Inquiry Program, the Youth, Microfinance and Conflict research initiative, and the Education for All and Making the Case initiatives. On behalf of USAID, EQUIP3 / Youth Trust also initiated a Washington-based chapter of the Youth Community of Practice, with the objective of connecting USAID headquarters staff and other youth practitioners through a seminar series focusing on youth-related issues. The Youth Community of Practice currently has a membership of 230 people.

EQUIP3 / Youth Trust also held its first annual meeting of USAID staff and EQUIP3 and partners, with the purpose of developing strategies to enhance services to our client, USAID, by incorporating a focus on youth into ongoing Agency activities, and strengthen our promotion of the needs of youth, particularly out-of-school youth. The two-day meeting was held in Ellicott City, Maryland and included a total of 35 people.

The project also participated in a meeting in South Africa in a stakeholder analysis and model design meeting, held in partnership with the Youth Employment Summit, as part of the Urban Youth Employment and HIV/AIDS initiative.

Other significant activities include an international teleconference focusing on youth and gang activity in Latin America, coordinated by EQUIP3 / Youth Trust at the request of the USAID Latin America/Caribbean Bureau, the expansion of the project's outreach activities, EQUIP3 / Youth Trust's participation in the EQUIP Communications Working Group and the Journal of Education for International Development, as well as in the Latin American/ Caribbean Bureau's Regional Conference, held in the Dominican Republic.

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## **Associate Awards**

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### **IDEJEN: The Haitian Out-of-School-Youth Livelihood Initiative**

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#### **Status, Sept. 2004:**

At the beginning of the quarter, in September 2004, IDEJEN had recently completed the Community Youth Mapping activities in three different communities, and had begun the process of developing standards for Haitian youth-serving NGOs, with the objective of strengthening their basic education and livelihood preparation services for out-of-school youth. The project had also received additional funding from the Haiti Mission to partner with a locally-based NGO, Fondation L’Avenir, to launch a project intended to mitigate youth participation in violent conflict by providing basic education, employment and livelihood opportunities. The project had developed a monitoring and evaluation framework, which was being reviewed by USAID and the IDEJEN team.

Associate Project Director Melanie Beauvy and a delegation of the IDEJEN staff traveled to the Dominican Republic, to represent the project at the regional meeting of the Latin America/Caribbean Bureau, and continued onto Mexico, where they presented the Community Youth Mapping program at the Youth Employment Summit in October.

#### **Sept. 2004- June 2005 Accomplishments:**

- Community Youth Mapping activities completed, interim report completed.
- Development of standards for youth-serving NGOs and self-evaluation tool development.
- Self-assessment workshop organized with 45 Haitian Youth NGOs.
- Selection of nine sub-grantees (awardees) to implement projects on basic education and livelihood preparation for out-of-school youth in three communities.
  - Training provided by IDEJEN staff on Financial and Organizational Management.
  - Development of an interim basic education curriculum to be used by the awardees.
  - Training of non formal “teachers” in non formal basic education techniques.
  - Development of Monitoring and Evaluation tools in a non formal education setting.
  - Contacts and partnerships developed with health organizations to assure that the youth being trained by IDEJEN awardees have regular health check-ups.
  - Partnership with CRS to provide canteens to the youth participants.
- Launch of the capacity building partnership with Fondation L’Avenir, a newly-created Haitian NGO.

- EQUIP3 consultant Marcia Greenberg spent a week in Haiti and prepared a first draft report on Livelihood Opportunities for Out-of-School Youth in Haiti.
- IDEJEN also finalized a new sub-agreement with Street Kids International, which allowed them to provide expertise in non formal basic education, focusing on materials and approaches for working with out-of-school youth. Helene Duquette, Program Manager at Street Kids International, traveled to Haiti February 22-26 to provide feedback on the interim basic education curriculum and conduct a training of trainers on creating a motivating learning environment for out-of-school youth. Helene went back to Haiti in June 2005 to further train on monitoring tools and life skills.
- The IDEJEN initiative held its second annual US-based meeting on March 14 and 15 at the EDC offices in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the meeting was to gather the US advisory committee and other experts to give feedback on the activities IDEJEN is undertaking in its second year, as well as share ideas on the future expansion.
- The IDEJEN initiative also held a Monitoring and Evaluation meeting in Washington, D.C. June 20 and 21.

#### **Future Initiatives:**

EQUIP3 / Youth Trust is finalizing a new program description and budget to USAID for an extension to September 2006, with an increase of \$640,000 on the original budget. Political tensions and violent activity have recently increased in Port-au-Prince, leading to the evacuation of 20 non-essential US government employees, US Peace Corps, and changes in operations in EDA, another Haiti-based EDC project. Given these circumstances, EQUIP3 is restricting travel to the field by the Port-au-Prince-based staff and monitoring the security situation carefully. Project staff has been directed to work from home as much as possible, in order to reduce their travel in and around Port-au-Prince. Other security investments are being made in communications technology, security training for staff, and increasing guard presence at the office.

#### **Afghanistan: Literacy and Community Empowerment Program**

##### **Status, Sept. 2004:**

EQUIP3 / Youth Trust acquired the Afghanistan associate award in June to conduct an assessment. Work began with extensive cooperation from the National Solidarity Program (NSP) part of the UN Habitat for Humanity program in Afghanistan. After conducting an assessment in July and August, an application and initial workplan and design were submitted. This led to an amendment of the award to implement a 2-year, \$10 million project. EQUIP3 / Youth Trust sent an interim Chief of Party, Mary Jo Larson, to Kabul Aug. 11 through Sept. 22, 2004, to coordinate the start-up activities of the project, as well as establish the project office. A teacher training center was opened in Kabul in late September as part of the project. Three expatriate positions had been filled: Chief of Party (Richard Williamson), Literacy Specialist (Marion Rimmer), and the Securities and Operations Officer (Carl Friedrich), although the SOO candidate was called to military service in October, therefore he never began his duties. On recommendation from the assessment team, he was not replaced.

**Sept. 2004- June 2005 Accomplishments:**

- **A sub-contact was executed with UN Habitat**
- International media recognition during First Lady Laura Bush's visit to the teacher training center in Kabul during the month of April.
- A new project office was renovated and opened in March.
- Kabul-based project staff was expanded.
- EDC Vice President Ron Israel and Afghanistan Program Manager Cornelia Janke visited Afghanistan in February and traveled outside of Kabul to spend time with UN Habitat's Community Development Councils to discuss how they will use the LCEP.
- Brenda Bell, a US-based literacy specialist, worked in Kabul with the LCEP Literacy Specialist, LCEP Lead Trainers, and the LCEP local literacy specialist, to develop training plans, curricula and materials for lead, district and village level trainers.
- The literacy team has also worked closely with monitoring and evaluation specialist Jerry Boardman, who worked with local staff to integrate progress indicators into the design of the literacy program. Jerry also worked closely with the UN Habitat M&E specialist to integrate EDC's suggestions for M&E with UN Habitat's existing system.

**Future Initiatives:**

Beginning in September, the project will be fully operational in all five targeted provinces new provinces include Kandahar and Farah, supporting village level functional literacy and numeracy training and, for the three existing provinces, actively integrating literacy and numeracy instruction with governance and savings and credit training.

**West Bank/Gaza: Palestinian Youth Assessment**

**Current Status:**

EQUIP3 / Youth Trust is currently conducting a three-month project valued at \$700,000. It includes establishing an EDC office, conducting a rapid appraisal of the youth situation with a focus on determining optimum areas for program investments, and a small local initiative sub-grant program. While there was some support for preliminary focus groups and information gathering supported by the core award, formal operations under an associate award were started June 10<sup>th</sup> under a pre-award authorization from the Mission. The International Youth Foundation joined this effort as a sub-awardee.

The results of the appraisal will inform the mission of options for a multiple-year effort aimed to youth engagement to achieve the strategic objective of social stability.

The assessment team includes Sana Abu-Bakr, a member of EQUIP3 / Youth Trust's Youth Advisory Committee. Sana will also be representing EQUIP3 / Youth Trust at the World Youth Congress 2005, to be held in Scotland in early August. Jacob Korenblum, a

former unpaid EDC/ EQUIP3 / Youth Trust intern, has joined Global Learning Group/ EDC as a full-time paid intern and is assisting Chief of Party Hisham Jabi in the project start-up activities.

Jim Kielsmeier is currently in the West Bank leading the appraisal team. He is the President and CEO of EQUIP3 / Youth Trust consortium member the National Youth Leadership Council.

## **Core Award Activities**

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### **Outreach**

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#### **Communication Strategy**

##### **Status, Sept. 2004:**

At the beginning of this quarter, EQUIP3 / Youth Trust identified, through a needs assessment conducted of its core team, the need for a clear communication strategy targeted at USAID headquarters, bureaus and missions.

##### **Sept. 2004- June 2005 Accomplishments:**

- Youth Trust Workshop, Dec. 9-10, 2004: The primary goal of this gathering was to deepen the group's common understanding of the overarching goals of Youth Trust, its approach, methodology and tools. The meeting built upon the virtual connections the team and consortium members have established and further strengthened them through face-to-face discussions. The participants took part in training sessions on EQUIP3 tools and approaches and in structured discussions designed to advance the work of EQUIP3 and better prepare the staff, consultant team and partners to provide USAID with useful technical assistance. Thirty-five people attended the retreat, with John Grayzel attending on Dec. 10 for a lunch discussion.
- Created a new position, Knowledge Management and Communications Coordinator, to manage all internal and external communications.
- Created EQUIP3 / Youth Trust Team Updates, an internal weekly e-publication that records all updates and progress within the project.
- Created a series of one-page outreach documents focusing on each EQUIP3 / Youth Trust activity/associate award.
- EQUIP3 / Youth Trust West Bank staff created a bi-weekly newsletter focusing on their activities
- The Knowledge Management and Communications Coordinator, Mela Boyer, is participating on the EQUIP Communications Working Group (ECWG), started by EQUIP1 with the objective of strengthening EQUIPs 1, 2 and 3 communication strategies and activities.
- An outreach tool was created in November to assist in determining which missions are most likely to benefit from EQUIP3 technical assistance.
- During the Feb. 8 monthly telcon, the team discussed strategies for outreach. Outreach opportunities suggested included:

- Training: working with New Entry Professionals and Presidential Management Fellows at USAID
- Building on the contacts Cathryn made during her series of interviews at USAID
- Planning significant face-to-face interactions/meetings.

**Future Initiatives:**

- As a part of ECWG activities, EQUIP3 / Youth Trust will host the following events:
  - October 2005: Seminar, USAID headquarters.
  - October 2005: EQUIP3 / Youth Trust will write the October edition of the EQ Review, a bi-monthly e-newsletter produced by EQUIP1.
  - November 2005: EQUIP3 / Youth Trust host an international videoconference with its field-based partners.
  - June 2006: EQUIP3 / Youth Trust will also write this edition of the EQ Review.

**USAID**

**Status, Sept. 2004:**

Associate Project Director Melanie Beauvy and a delegation of the IDEJEN staff, including Haitian Project Manager Guerda Previlon, were invited to the Dominican Republic, to represent the project at the regional meeting of the Latin America/Caribbean Bureau. In Washington, the Youth Advisory Committee members dialogued for several hours with USAID staff in July as a part of a training designed to equip the youth advisors with the skills to deal effectively with international development agencies.

**Sept. 2004- June 2005 Accomplishments:**

- John Grayzel conducted a lunch time seminar at the EQUIP3 / Youth Trust Annual Meeting in December, held in Ellicott City, Maryland.
- EQUIP3 / Youth Trust consultant Cathryn Thorup conducted four days of informational interviews with USAID staff in order to assess the needs and perspectives of the Agency and determine how EQUIP3 can best work with the Agency.
- David James-Wilson, Melanie Beauvy, and Cathryn Thorup represented EQUIP3 at a meeting held at USAID with Steven Miller, Secretary of the Youth Employment Network (YEN). Cathryn followed up with Steven by providing him with a summary of EQUIP3 activities in the Youth Livelihood arena and the identification of potential opportunities for collaboration.
- Knowledge Management and Communications Coordinator Mela Boyer conducted a needs assessment with USAID staff in order to increase the relevance of the Youth Community of Practice to their work.
- The Youth Community of Practice, under the direction of EQUIP3, is conducting a seminar series at USAID headquarters, beginning with Cathryn Thorup's presentation on "What Works with Youth Employment in the Balkans and South Africa," on April 26.

- EQUIP3 / Youth Trust hosted an international conference call focused on youth and gang activity in Latin America at the request of the LAC bureau. Using its extended network, the EQUIP3 staff created a panel of youth, gang and Latin America experts with only four days notice.
- Melanie Beauvy, Associate Director for Youth Involvement, was invited by the Democracy and Governance Bureau, to help in the development of two Youth sessions during the June D&G Officers annual meeting. Cathryn Thorup and Melanie Beauvy made presentations on Youth Engagement and Tips for working with Youth. EQUIP3 also identified Youth Leaders who were either involved as key speakers or resource persons in both Youth sessions.

### **Future Initiatives:**

EQUIP3 has been invited to submit several proposals for Youth sessions during the EGAT-ED conference scheduled in August 2005. Most of them have been selected and are under development.

### **Comparative and International Education Society**

EQUIPs 1, 2 and 3 participated in the CIES annual conference, held in Palo Alto, Calif. at Stanford University in mid-March. The EQUIPs were represented by an information table, which included EQUIP3 brochures and information regarding our core and associate award activities.

### **EQUIP3 / Youth Trust Brochures**

EQUIP3 / Youth Trust printed 500 updated brochures in March.

### **EQUIP123 website**

#### **Status, Sept. 2004:**

At the beginning of the period, the website had changed little since its launch and was not being used by partners.

#### **Sept. 2004- June 2005 Accomplishments:**

The Youth Advisory Committee has been posting monthly updates to the website concerning their activities, including their monthly newsletters and articles written by the different members. The YAC portion of the website has become a dynamic center with program information and updates. This will be used as the model for the rest of the website.

#### **Future Initiatives:**

Mela Boyer, the Knowledge Management and Communications Coordinator, will be working with Justin McFadden of EQUIP1, who is also the webmaster for the EQUIP project, to create the website into a dynamic tool. In addition, a digital library of youth

resources will be linked to the website and each associate award will have its own section.

### **Journal for Education in International Development**

#### **New Initiative, Current Status:**

JEID is a new online journal produce by EQUIP1 and dedicated to the improvement of education policies and practices promoting lifelong learning for the sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction of developing countries worldwide. EQUIP3 / Youth Trust is represented on the Editorial Board by Cathryn Thorup and on the Advisory Board by Mela Boyer.

### **Knowledge Management**

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#### **Youth Community of Practice**

##### **Status, Sept. 2004:**

In September, EQUIP3 / Youth Trust was focusing on further developing the Youth Community of Practice, which at that time had 270 members, including 24 USAID mission representatives, had developed a work plan, in addition to community charter and protocol. In addition, EQUIP3 / Youth Trust had built a membership database with detailed information about the members' interests and area of expertise and had posted and circulated more than 200 youth-related articles/reports. The project was also exploring different IT repositories for future expansion. The Youth Community of Practice also hosted an online discussion from Sept. 7-10 focusing on Youth Livelihood. 45 people participated. The final report was posted on the website by the end of the month.

##### **Sept. 2004- June 2005 Accomplishments:**

- EQUIP3 / Youth Trust expanded its staff to include a Knowledge Management and Communications Coordinator, creating a position to manage and expand the Youth Community of Practice.
- Youth Community of Practice Seminar Series: A series of youth-focused seminars being held at USAID Headquarters every other month.
- Conducted a needs assessment with USAID staff in order to increase the relevance of the Youth Community of Practice to their work.
- Developed a rough draft MOU with the Academy for Educational Development to host the Youth Community of practice on the Global Learning Portal.

##### **Future Initiatives:**

- Complete the MOU with AED and migrate the Youth Community of Practice to the Global Learning Portal.
- Host a meeting of consortium members to develop a taxonomy for the Global Learning Portal.

- Continue to develop the Washington-based chapter through the seminar series and other events as the membership develops.

### **Blogs**

#### **New Initiative, Current Status:**

Two blogs have been created, one for EQUIP staff and one for the core team. The blogs will serve as knowledge repositories that can be accessed at anytime, anywhere. They are intended to facilitate the recording of lessons learned; the team update process and writing quarterly reports.

### **Digital Library**

#### **New Initiative, Current Status:**

EDC will host a Youth Resources Digital Library on its server, which will be linked as a major resource to the Global Learning Portal. The digital library is an online, searchable repository for youth-related resources. EDC is currently in the process of creating a standard set of keywords. It is anticipated this process will be completed by the end of August, at which point EQUIP3 / Youth Trust staff will input articles collected from various sources, including partners.

### **Consultant, Personnel and Resource Database**

#### **New Initiative, Current Status:**

In addition to the Digital Library, EQUIP3 / Youth Trust is creating a database of its consultants, personnel and extended network to serve as an easily searchable tool. It will facilitate the speed in which staff can respond to inquiries and locate the appropriate person/resource for projects and proposals.

### **Global Learning Portal**

#### **New Initiative, Current Status:**

EQUIP3 / Youth Trust is currently negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with AED, the host of USAID's Global Learning Portal. The Youth Community of Practice will be placed on the Global Learning Portal as part of a Youth Learning Portal, which will also host a Youth Resources Digital Library, as well as discussion rooms and bulletin boards.

### **Rapid Response System**

#### **New Initiative, Current Status:**

Mela created the initial design for a rapid response system that will ensure EQUIP3 / Youth Trust has the system and tools in place to respond quickly to USAID requests. The design was circulated among the core team for feedback.

#### **Future Initiatives:**

Upon completion of a consultant database and digital library, the second draft of the system will be circulated.

### **EQUIP3 / Youth Trust Internal Document Management**

Melanie Beauvy and intern Scott Frick created an internal knowledge management matrix intended to classify and organize the documents and information produced by EQUIP3 core and associate awards. This will also lead to reorganizing these documents in the internal shared drive, the password protected area on the website, and the public area on the EQUIP3 website. After initial feedback from the staff, the matrix will be circulated to the core team.

## **Youth and Conflict**

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### **Youth and Conflict Research**

#### **Status, Sept. 2004:**

Web-based and library research was carried out on youth in conflict and post-conflict situations by EQUIP3 / Youth Trust intern Molly Sampson, under Marc Sommer's supervision. An electronic and hard copy reference guide was created. Marc will use this work to draft a report on findings of the literature regarding current and completed programming for youth in crisis situations, with particular emphasis on evaluated work.

#### **Future Initiatives:**

Marc is currently writing a literature review based on the research.

### **Youth, Microfinance and Conflict**

#### **Status, Sept. 2004:**

Youth Trust, representing EGAT/ED, is collaborating with Chemonics International, Inc. through their Knowledge Generation Task Order of the Accelerated Micro enterprise Advancement Program (AMAP) IQC in a research effort to better understand the situation of and potential for microfinance programs for youth in conflict areas. In Sept. of 2004, Chemonics had conducted a limited literature review, held a virtual conference with support from EQUIP3/Youth Trust and written a draft practice notes on the topic. EQUIP3 / Youth Trust was preparing to conduct field surveys to support the research.

#### **Sept. 2004- June 2005 Accomplishments:**

- David James-Wilson and other local and international consultants conducted a data collection field visit in Uganda. A draft case study report was completed and submitted to USAID for their input
- Prior to departing for Kampala, David met with the Chemonics team and Evelyn Stark, USAID, to chart out a plan to identify, adapt and develop appropriate Participatory Research Assessment Tools to be used during the data collection phase for creating the case studies.
- In May, David conducted the second case study in West Bank / Gaza with a local team. The case study report is nearly completed.

#### **Future Initiatives:**

A combined report of case studies, a collection of assessment tools, and a practice notes will be the combined products of the collaboration. A workshop is planned for USAID staff to share lessons learned and provide an opportunity for further dialogue about potential future usage of the information.

## **Youth Employment and Livelihood**

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### **Urban Youth Employment in HIV/AIDS Municipalities**

#### **Status, Sept. 2004:**

The Urban Office at USAID has a long-term goal to raise employment rates among disadvantaged urban youth in high prevalence HIV/AIDS communities, thereby improving participants' and families' quality of life and mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on affected urban populations. Phase one is designed to make optimal use of the \$50,000 in catalyst monies put forward by USAID.

#### **Sept. 2004- June 2005 Accomplishments:**

A desk study was compiled on the relationship between urban youth unemployment and HIV/AIDS. It includes cultural, sociological, and demographic information and articulates some of the work being done and some lessons learned. It also identifies stakeholders in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia.

YES, US, and Africa staff and volunteers, with the technical input from EQUIP3 core staff Nancy Devine and Cornelia Janke and consortium partner Steve Wisman from OICI, held a Stakeholder Analysis and Model Design Meeting, in Johannesburg, South Africa, from April 26 - 28, 2005. Participants included local regional USAID and members of AMICAALL (Alliance of Mayors' Initiative to Combat AIDS); Center for Disease Control, governmental representatives of targeted countries from Ministries of Labor and Youth, the mayors of the capital cities of targeted countries, YES Country Network members, other youth-serving organizations, and some of the affected youths themselves. The World Bank was also represented and several thousand dollars was provided by the bank to assist with workshop attendance by some participants. Team meetings put together draft country plans to address this issue.

#### **Future Initiatives:**

The draft team plans and the newly-formed and mobilized country teams afford a great opportunity to move this regional workshop effort to a country level. It is hoped that additional resources could be identified to enable EQUIP3 to continue a technical assistance effort to help county teams shape their visions into well designed projects.

A short proposal for technical assistance activities was developed to attract support within USAID.

### **Youth Livelihood Manual/Technical Assistance Guide**

#### **New Initiative, Current Status:**

The Youth Livelihood Manual is being developed by EQUIP3 / Youth Trust to identify effective policies, programs and practices that have been designed and funded to prepare

out-of-school youth to earn productive livelihoods. The manual will be a guide for USAID program officers, EQUIP3 staff and consultants, and youth-serving agencies who are preparing out-of-school youth for livelihoods. The manual provides information to assist program officers to make intelligent choices in the design, evaluation, development and implementation of youth livelihood programs. A second draft of the TAG has recently been completed.

## **Youth Participation**

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### **Youth Advisory Committee**

#### **Status, Sept. 2004:**

Former EQUIP3 / Youth Trust intern Urmika Chatterjee was hired as a consultant to help facilitate the Youth Advisory Committee and implement the strategies agreed upon during the July 2004 meeting.

#### **Sept. 2004- June 2005 Accomplishments:**

- Melanie Beauvy and Urmika conducted phone interviews with youth advisors to determine their strengths and interests. They used these interviews to place each advisor with a specific EQUIP3 / Youth Trust project. Examples:
  - Catherine Kamping, Philippines, is working with Maggi Alexander on the Making the Case paper.
  - Sana Abu-Bakr is participating on the West Bank assessment team and will represent EQUIP3 / Youth Trust at the World Youth Congress in Scotland this summer.
- A youth advisor participated on two of the core team monthly calls.
- Youth advisors are regularly writing articles that are posted on the EQUIP3 / Youth Trust website.
- Advisors are active on a Yahoo! Groups website, holding discussions.
- At the start of March, Philippines Youth Advisor Catherine Kamping visited Washington, D.C. for meetings with EQUIP3 and USAID staff, after she traveled to New York for a meeting of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) Youth Caucus. During her time spent at EQUIP3, Catherine met with the entire project team to report on youth participation at the UN, discuss the status of out-of-school youth and youth programming in her home country of the Philippines, and explore potential new areas of involvement for the YAC in EQUIP3 activities. Catherine also gave a presentation at USAID on her domestic and international youth work. Catherine also made available a draft report from the Ad Hoc Working Group for Youth and the MDGs. The 75-page document, released in November 2004, was created by Catherine and other international youth leaders and assesses youth engagement (to date) in global efforts to achieve the 8 Millennium Development Goals.
- On March 17, Cornelia Janke and Jacob Korenblum held a conference call with Pakistan Youth Advisor Rana Bilal Ahmad, to discuss possible ways in which the YAC can contribute to the Afghanistan Associate Award. As a first step, it was decided that Rana will facilitate discussions on youth project involvement

between EQUIP3's Chief of Party in the country and Afghan YES (Youth Employment Summit) representatives.

- Earlier in March, Youth Advisor Emma Serrano (Bolivia) met with Veronica Torres, Street Kids International Coordinator for South America, to discuss issues surrounding Youth and Microfinance in Bolivia. Following this meeting, Emma produced a report on Youth and Microfinance for EQUIP3.

**Future Initiatives:**

- The EQUIP3 / Youth Trust staff is currently planning the second annual YAC meeting, to be held in August.
- Youth advisors will be participating in each of the panel sessions at USAID's EGAT/ED conference, in addition to be engaged in different workshop sessions on youth participation, youth and conflict, youth livelihood preparation, and youth policy.

**Youth Leadership Development Concept Paper**

**Current Status Summary:**

IYF and Youth Trust are collaborating in the development of a concept paper to implement the Youth Action Net (YAN) network at the individual country level. Melanie, with support from Marcia Greenberg and Paul, is working with Ashok Regmi, Program Manager at IYF, to explore how this initiative could strengthen youth participation and youth leadership development in USAID countries in order to better achieve some missions' specific strategic objectives. Eight to 10 missions will be identified based on their SOs, for the purpose of sharing the concept paper with them. IYF is currently working to garner more support from its partners and YouthActionNet awardees before submitting a revised draft.

**Strategies and Mechanisms for Youth Participation: EQUIP3 Capability Statement and Strategy**

**Current Status Summary:**

Several drafts were created along the year incorporating revisions from the Youth Advisors. The Youth Participation Strategy is in its final stage revision.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

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**Monitoring and Evaluation Meeting**

On May 9, 2005, EDC Washington hosted a meeting to develop Monitoring and Evaluation tools for the EQUIP3 project. The meeting focused on the M&E tools already developed for Haiti.

EQUIP3 / Youth Trust will use the results of this meeting to:

- Better work with its Haitian team in creating the finalized tools for M&E for the Associate Award IDEJEN.
- Review and estimate its M&E capacity and tools for EQUIP3 future projects.

## **Technical Assistance**

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### **Collaborative Inquiry Program (CIP)**

#### **Current Status Summary:**

The Collaborative Inquiry Program is designed to advance state-of-the-art knowledge and practices for out-of-school youth in developing countries, focusing initially on the areas of: (a) livelihood; (b) complementary education; and, (c) community service. The objective is to contribute new knowledge and experience, about going to scale. This is intended to be listed in a manner that makes the knowledge and experience readily accessible to USAID Missions and host country organizations.

During December and January, staff received nominations of 20 programs/organizations meeting the program criteria. Of these, 4 potential partners in South Africa, India, Jamaica, and the Philippines have been identified and are in the process of being invited to join EQUIP3 / Youth Trust as learning partners for an 18-month action research exercise that will begin this summer. A CIP Working Group has composed of experts from the fields of youth livelihood/employment preparation, complementary education, service learning, evaluation, and cost-benefit analysis to guide this effort.

### **Making the Case for Investing in Out-of-School Youth: EQUIP3 / Youth Trust, Background Paper**

#### **Current Status Summary:**

The purpose of this paper is to make a compelling argument for why policymakers and practitioners should invest in out-of-school youth. The paper will examine the situations, needs and assets of OSY and describe promising approaches in the areas of complementary education, livelihood preparation and service/service learning. The final paper will be produced in several formats (executive summary, short briefing papers, and full text) and the audience will be policymakers, practitioners, and USAID bureaus and offices. Staff have recently interviewed economists and other experts in the field of non-formal education and the paper is near completion. .

### **Meeting the Education for All Challenge – Discovering Complementary Intersectoral Approaches for Youth**

#### **Current Status Summary:**

Youth Trust is allocating funds to match mission and local partner field initiatives focused on complementary intersectoral youth development needs focusing on education that are critical to the development of a healthy economy and creative civil society. Youth Trust intends to do this through supporting pilot programs that provide fundamental skills, including reading, writing, speaking, listening, and mathematics,

along with fostering the development of personal qualities, critical thinking and generic work skills.

The objective is to fund new innovations in order to facilitate learning between participating missions and a larger audience. Three projects of up to \$100,000 each will be funded. USAID missions will be asked to provide matching funds.

In response to the effort, more than 16 organizations responded with Expressions of Interest, including missions in Nepal, Bolivia, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia, Haiti, Jamaica, and Zambia. After reviewing the documents, several projects have been invited to submit full proposals by mid-May. Concepts included out-of-school vocational training without walls, basic education for at-risk out-of-school boys in troubled communities, youth service, transition strategies for primary school-leavers into agriculture production, work camps, out-of-school professional and literacy training, introducing " relief teachers" (out-of-school youth) to mitigate the impact of teacher absenteeism and HIV/AIDS on basic education, improving life skills and livelihood options for street kids, and recreation and sports as a tool to unite youth in conflict-affected areas and increase leadership skills.

From the original Expressions of Interest, EQUIP3 / Youth Trust has selected proposals from South Africa, Jamaica, Uganda, Namibia, and Madagascar.