

Quarterly Report

April to June 2001

Project: **FOCUS on Young Adults**

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I. Planned Results

A. FOCUS' Results Package calls for "young adult initiatives that reflect the documented policy, program, and research experience." Three intermediate results (IRs) are anticipated:

IR1: USAID and its partners will be exposed to and made aware of the key policy and program issues affecting the health and well-being of young adults;

IR2: Increased capability of USAID and its partners to initiate and monitor implementation of young adult policies and programs; and

IR3: Promising young adult policy approaches and model programs identified through research and evaluation.

B. The FOCUS program addresses four out of the five Strategic Objectives (SOs) set forth in the Results Framework of the USAID Center for Population, Health and Nutrition (G/PHN). Within those SOs, FOCUS supports attainment of the following Intermediate Results:

SO1: Increased use by women and men of voluntary practices that contribute to reduced fertility.

1.1 New and improved technologies and approaches for contraceptive methods and family planning identified, developed tested, evaluated and disseminated.

1.2 Improved policy environment and increased global resources for family planning programs.

1.3 Enhanced capacity for public, private NGO and community

based organizations to design, implement, and evaluate sustainable family planning programs.

- 1.4 Demand for, access to, and quality of family planning and other selected reproductive health information and services increased.

SO2: Increased use of key maternal health and nutrition interventions.

- 2.1 Effective and appropriate maternal health and nutrition interventions and approaches identified, developed, evaluated and/or disseminated.
- 2.2. Improved policy environment for maternal health and nutrition programs.
- 2.3. Improved capabilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect and enhance maternal health and nutrition.
- 2.4. Increased access to, and availability of, quality maternal health and nutrition programs and services.

SO3: Increased use of key child health and nutrition interventions.

- 3.1 New and improved cost-effective interventions developed and disseminated.
- 3.2 Improved policies and increased global, national and local resources for appropriate child health interventions.
- 3.3 Enhanced knowledge of key child health and nutrition behaviors/practices in selected countries.

SO4: Increased use of improved, effective and sustainable responses to reduce HIV transmission and to mitigate the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

- 4.1 Increased quality, availability, and demand for information and services to change sexual risk behaviors and cultural norms in order to reduce transmission of HIV.
- 4.2 Enhanced quality, availability, and demand for STI management and prevention services.
- 4.3 Develop and promote approaches that address key contextual constraints and opportunities for prevention and care interventions.
- 4.4 Strengthened and expanded private sector organizations' responses in delivering HIV/AIDS information and services.
- 4.5 Improved availability of, and capacity to generate and apply, data to monitor and evaluate HIV/AIDS/STI prevalence, trends and program impacts.

- 4.6 Develop and strengthen mechanisms to provide quality and timely assistance to partners (Regional Bureaus, Missions, Other Donors, etc.) to ensure effective and coordinated implementation of HIV/AIDS programs.

Accomplishments by Intermediate Results, during the reporting period:

**FOCUS IR1: G/PHN-SO: 1.2/ 1.3/ 1.4/ 2.2/ 3.2/ 3.3/ 4.1/ 4.2/ 4.3/ 4.4/ 4.5/ 4.6
INFORM**

FOCUS Intermediate Result 1. The first of FOCUS's goals is to inform USAID and its partners about the key policy and program issues affecting the health and well-being of young adults. This is done through publications, presentations, and collaborations between FOCUS and other organizations or individuals working in the field of YARH.

Publications

During the April through June quarterly report period, FOCUS managed a mailing list of over 2000. The publications produced and disseminated this quarter include:

- Two new additions to the Project Highlights series, featuring successful projects in Paraguay and Chile. "Combining Mass Media-, School-, and Community-Based Approaches" explains how the *Arte y Parte* program, developed by Population Services International/PROMESA, increases adolescents' knowledge and understanding of reproductive health issues while promoting responsible sexual behavior. "Integrating Sexuality Education and Health Services for Students" puts the spotlight on CEMERA, a project of the University of Chile's Center for Adolescent Reproductive Medicine and Development. CEMERA's goal is to help students develop more responsible attitudes toward their personal conduct, particularly with respect to their sexuality. Copies of both publications are available on request and can be accessed through the FOCUS website:
<http://www.pathfind.org/publications.htm.htm>.
- Six summaries of the Research and Evaluation (R&E) studies conducted by the FOCUS on Young Adults program, in collaboration with other USAID Cooperating Agencies and organizations. These were disseminated by e-mail and posted on the website for general dissemination. They include "Risk and Protective Factors for Unplanned Pregnancy among Adolescents in La Paz, Bolivia," "Why the Rise in Adolescent Fertility Rates in the Dominican Republic in the 1990s?" "Reproductive Health Risk and Protective Factors among Youth in Lusaka, Zambia," "A Report on the Mini-Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) Exercise in Zambia," "Barriers to Adolescents' Use of Reproductive

Health Services in Three Bolivian Cities,” and “Correlates of Early Sexual Activity and Unprotected Sex Among Urban Secondary School Students in Peru.” All can be printed from FOCUS's website at <http://www.pathfind.org/publications.htm>.

- Two peer-reviewed journal articles. Two papers were accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals during this period. The first paper, “Correlates of Adolescent Pregnancy in La Paz, Bolivia: Findings from a Quantitative-Qualitative Study,” was co-authored by Varja Lipovsek, Ali Mehryar Karim, Emily Zielinski Gutierrez (Tulane doctoral students/FOCUS staff), FOCUS Principal Investigator Robert Magnani, and Maria del Carmen Castro (consultant, La Paz, Bolivia). The paper will be published in the journal *Adolescence* in the near future. The second paper, “Impact of an Integrated School- and Clinic-Based Adolescent Reproductive Health Program in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil,” was co-authored by Robert Magnani, Lynne Gaffikin (FOCUS consultant), Estela Aquino (Federal University of Bahia), Eric Seiber (Tulane faculty/FOCUS staff), Maria Conceicao (Federal University of Bahia), Varja Lipovsek, and Amara Robinson (Tulane doctoral students/FOCUS staff). The paper will be published in the journal *Studies in Family Planning* in September 2001

FOCUS publications have received positive feedback, and are often requested, used, and praised by other individuals and organizations working in YARH.

- FOCUS gave 35 copies of *A Guide to Monitoring and Evaluating Adolescent Reproductive Health Programs* to Africare. Africare has distributed it to its regional and health program managers at its Washington, D.C. headquarters and field staff involved in adolescent reproductive health and other health projects, especially those related to HIV/AIDS. The guide was also distributed to participants in the International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region's (IPPF/WHR) Workshop on Proposal Writing and Evaluation. Held in Trinidad from April 2-6, the workshop included representatives from the English-speaking Caribbean family planning associations (FPAs).
- The June 1999 FOCUS report, “Young Adult Reproductive Health in Zambia: A Review of Studies and Programmes”, by Rose Zeko Haambayi and former FOCUS staff member Lisa A. Weiss, will be used by Oyvind Thiis of UNAIDS/Zambia in special assignment work. Thiis is following up on resolutions made at the World Economic Forum held in January of this year where chief executives of major international companies resolved to do more to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS within their corporate staffs and in their philanthropic work. To this end, UNAIDS is developing a list of HIV/AIDS prevention and care investment options for the private sector. Zambia has been selected to provide examples of effective interventions and highlight the organizations implementing them. Thiis notes that the FOCUS document on

Zambia is the "most comprehensive overview of what youth organizations are doing in Zambia on HIV and RH [reproductive health]."

- Anne Wilson, Director of the Washington, D.C. office of PATH (Program for Appropriate Technology in Health) recently wrote: "...the *In FOCUS* newsletter and related publications have been invaluable to those of us in the field who wish to stay abreast of evidence-based best practices and useful resources. The publications are concise, content-rich and user-friendly. They are a welcome addition in our information-overload environment. Many thanks for continuing to disseminate them broadly."
- Geri Lynn Peak, Dr.PH, Co-founder and Managing Director of The Center for Applied Research and Technical Assistance (CARTA) in Baltimore says, "I have been promoting your tool kits all over the place...each is excellent... The Youth Friendly Services tool was a big hit in Nebraska. People are looking for strategies that work in rural areas, but ...never thought of tapping into the fine work done internationally. Just another reminder how important it is to have a more 'global' viewpoint."

Presentations

In an effort to inform as many people as possible about YARH, FOCUS has offered ongoing presentations of YARH issues, programs and findings.

- On April 19, FOCUS staff and Judith Senderowitz, Pathfinder International's consultant on young adult reproductive health (YARH), delivered a day-long briefing for staff of the new CATALYST reproductive health (RH) service delivery project and Pathfinder International. The group discussed what is currently known on YARH from policies, programs and research/evaluation in developing countries, and how to apply "lessons learned" to CATALYST's work at early stages to improve access to and quality of RH services for adolescents.
- On May 17, FOCUS Policy Advisor Nancy Murray participated in USAID/Jamaica's Implementing Partners Meeting held in Washington, D.C. Murray presented an overview of FOCUS' work in Jamaica, entitled "Multisectoral Coordination for Adolescent and Youth Development in Jamaica: Going Beyond Reproductive Health."
- On May 24, FOCUS held the third of its 2001 Partner Dialogues, this one on HIV/AIDS. Attended by about 40 people from USAID, cooperating agencies (CAs), and other organizations, the dialogue included these presentations: 1) an update on the youth dimension of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, presented by Karen Stanecki of the U.S. Census Bureau; 2) youth vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, by Karusa Kiragu of Johns Hopkins University's Center for Communications Programs (JHU/CCP); 3) the effectiveness of prevention programs, by Carl

Kendall of FOCUS/Tulane University; and 4) the effectiveness of programs to mitigate the impact of the epidemic on youth by Ann McCauley and Laelia Gilborn of HORIZONS. Lively discussion followed each presentation. A report on this meeting is forthcoming. Reports on the two dialogues held earlier this year (on commercial- and private-sector programs to reach young people and research and evaluation related to YARH are available upon request or can be accessed at our website: <http://www.pathfind.org/publications.htm>.

- FOCUS/Tulane staff presented two papers at the Annual Meeting of the Global Health Council held May 28-June 1 in Washington, DC. These were: "The Effectiveness of Adolescent Reproductive Health Interventions in Developing Countries," and "Determinants of Sexual Risk-Taking Behaviors among Adolescents in Developing Countries," co-authored by Robert Magnani, Ilene Speizer, Nancy Murray, and Kate Bond.

Collaborations

FOCUS collaborates frequently with other organizations and individuals working in YARH through meetings and discussions to ensure the vital flow of information between partners in the field and, sometimes, to coordinate efforts towards mutual goals.

- On April 30, FOCUS staff met with Jane Ferguson of the World Health Organization (WHO)/Geneva's unit dealing with adolescent health, WHO consultant Brian Barber of the University of Tennessee, and Varja Lipovsek of FOCUS/Tulane to discuss collaboration on issues such as the status of research and evaluation dealing with risk and protective factors; measurement of YARH; and the meaning and measurement of a safe and supportive environment for YARH. WHO has worked on measurement issues in seven countries in an effort to improve the link between programs and research, and is now developing a tool for using their program/measurement framework. Barber is developing an evidence table on YARH. FOCUS has collaborated with WHO in the past, especially in measurement, and will continue to do so.
- On May 18, FOCUS Deputy Director Lindsay Stewart met with Azeema Faizunnisa, Chief of Information Services at the Population Council's Pakistan office. Ms. Faizunnisa described some of the Population Council's adolescent health and development work in Pakistan, including two qualitative studies, a literature review and a secondary analysis of national household data. The Population Council has also conducted an informal situation analysis of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working with adolescents, held a workshop with 60-70 of those NGOs, and established a network on adolescence to ensure better coordination and collaboration within Pakistan. The organization will develop an email system and a website to improve communications on adolescent issues. Stewart shared FOCUS' experiences, publications and tools with Ms. Faizunnisa, who will distribute them to youth network members in Pakistan.

- On May 25, FOCUS Director Sharon Epstein and Lindsay Stewart met with Liu Yongfeng, Adolescent Reproductive Health Director of the China Family Planning Association (FPA), and Qian Geng, Program Officer of PATH. They discussed the FPA's year-old youth project, which operates in 14 urban and rural sites in 12 provinces. This project works with 10- to 24-year-old unmarried youth on advocacy, life-planning skills education, and improving access to youth-friendly services. The FPA has translated FOCUS' tool *Listening to Young Voices: Facilitating Participatory Appraisals on Reproductive Health with Adolescents* into Chinese and used it to help them develop their workplan for this project. In addition, their Research Advisory Committee, composed of prominent reproductive health leaders in China, is using the FOCUS tool *A Guide to Monitoring and Evaluating Adolescent Reproductive Health Programs*.
- Sharon Epstein, Project Assistant Kathy Buek and FOCUS consultant Julia Beamish met with representatives of USAID's Asia/Near East Bureau, The Futures Group International, and the Population Council on June 25 to discuss plans for a Near East Regional workshop. In the meeting, Beamish presented her paper outlining current issues and policies concerning YARH in Near Eastern countries, as well as programs already in place or planned, and opportunities for new programs. A meeting is anticipated later this year in Cairo to plan a YARH workshop for January 2002 in either Egypt or Tunisia.
- On June 28, Sharon Epstein and Lindsay Stewart met with Dr. Kamala, a faculty member of the Sardar Patel University in Gujarat, India. Dr. Kamala is currently doing a baseline survey in three urban and three rural areas of Gujarat to assess 12- to 15-year-olds' knowledge about reproductive health. Based on this study, she will work with parents and teachers to develop and test a sexuality education curriculum for grades 7-9, using a participatory education approach. This work will be supported by teacher training, parental communications skills-building training, advocacy work, community theatre and other activities. These activities and their impact on the young people in school and in the community will be evaluated. The FOCUS tool *A Guide to Monitoring and Evaluating Adolescent Reproductive Health Programs* will be used in designing the project's evaluation. If the curriculum is successful in the test sites, the Gujarat state government will implement it throughout the state.

**FOCUS IR2: G/PHN-SO: 1.1/1.2/1.3/1.4/2.1/2.2/2.3/4.1/4.2/4.4/4.6 –
IMPROVE CAPABILITY**

FOCUS Intermediate Result 2. FOCUS's second goal is to increase capability of USAID and its partners to initiate and monitor implementation of young adult policies and programs. This is done through training and technical assistance.

Training

- John Townsend, Director of the FRONTIERS project, and Sharon Epstein co-facilitated three very popular sessions on YARH at USAID's Mini-University on Reproductive Health, held in Washington for USAID- and non-USAID-affiliated RH professionals. Some 75 people attended the sessions. Questions and comments demonstrated great interest in YARH including: (1) a desire to raise levels of knowledge through this kind of training even among the most experienced RH professionals; (2) looking more closely at basic characteristics of adolescents and the process and stages of adolescent development, and applying that knowledge in programming; (3) building evaluation (baseline and follow-up data collection at reasonable intervals) into new YARH programs at an early stage, and beginning to collect baseline and follow-up data against certain indicators for ongoing programs; (4) significantly "scaling up" YARH interventions in terms of population covered, geographic areas (e.g., multi-sites) and having donors commit to provide funds for YARH programs over several phases in the scaling-up process; and (5) continuing to disseminate and arrange discussions on YARH "lessons learned" based on both program experiences and research/evaluations conducted to date.

Technical Assistance

- Nancy Murray traveled to Jamaica from April 22 to May 4, 2001, to complete an in-depth needs assessment for USAID/Kingston on multisectoral coordination for adolescent and youth development. FOCUS consultant Remedios Ruiz, of the Dominican firm Aleph, also participated in the needs assessment and in finalizing FOCUS's technical assistance plan. FOCUS is supporting the development of a Youth Profile and a Programmatic Inventory that includes indicators and programs in the health, education, labor, and justice sectors. Christine Varga of The Futures Group International, traveled to Jamaica from June 9 to 15 to test and finalize the format and screening criteria for the inventory. These activities are being overseen by the Government of Jamaica's National Centre for Youth Development, in close collaboration with the National Office for Children and the Planning Institute of Jamaica. Stakeholders from the NGO and private sectors involved in serving youth in all of the above-mentioned capacities will be invited to participate in producing both documents, which will serve as the basis of discussion at a national stakeholders meeting in August 2001. At that meeting, organizations will be invited to identify gaps and overlaps and begin designing improved coordination mechanisms to address these in youth policies and programs.
- FOCUS has been assisting Bangladeshi organizations in the USAID-assisted National Integrated Population and Health Partnership (NIPHP) to develop printed and video materials on YARH for use by adolescents and professionals in YARH and RH. FOCUS consultant Dr. Andrew Kantner advised the NIPHP and USAID Mission on the design and implementation of an evaluation survey that will collect baseline and follow-up data to assess effectiveness of these

and other NIPHP YARH communications interventions. FOCUS consultant Irit Houvras has also been working with the NIPHP on a number of initiatives. She worked with the Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) Working Group consisting of NIPHP partners as well as members from UNFPA, UNICEF, and the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) to finalize a series of booklets of frequently asked questions and answers regarding YARH. These will be disseminated and used in production of print materials, videos, and a radio program later this year. She has also arranged a FOCUS contract with Family Health International (FHI) in Bangladesh to translate and print a life-skills resource book entitled *Friends Tell Friends on the Street* by Greg Carl and Nonthathorn Chaipech of the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Center and Canada Fund, for use in training-of-trainers workshops addressing sexuality and life-skills techniques, scheduled for later this year. Finally, Houvras provided technical assistance to the Operations Research Project (ORP) of the International Center for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) on various YARH interventions they are conducting.

- With funding from USAID/Mali, FOCUS completed *Un Guide pour le suivi et l'évaluation des programmes de santé de la reproduction des adolescents*, the French translation of the *Guide to Monitoring and Evaluating Adolescent Reproductive Health Programs*. Designed for program managers who monitor and evaluate adolescent reproductive health programs, the guide provides technical assistance in setting up systems to monitor implementation of program activities; track progress; evaluate changes; and advise other organizations on these topics. FOCUS encourages others to copy and disseminate this document as, unfortunately, we do not have enough copies to disseminate. This translation is available on FOCUS' website: <http://www.pathfind.org/publications.htm.htm>.

**FOCUS IR3: G/PHN- SO: 1.1/ 1.3/ 1.4/ 2.1/ 2.4/ 4.1/ 4.2/ 4.3/ 4.4/ 4.5/ 4.6 –
IDENTIFY WHAT WORKS**

FOCUS Intermediate Result 3. Thirdly, FOCUS works to identify promising policy approaches and programs through its research and evaluation. During this reporting period, the following activities took place:

- Robert Magnani participated in a conference call with Jamaican counterparts from the Addiction Alert Organization (AAO) and Hope Enterprises to finalize the questionnaire for the final round of data collection in connection with an evaluation of the AAO Peer Education Program. Fieldwork was undertaken in May, and a clean dataset, ready for analysis was completed by the end of June.

- Fieldwork for the final round of data collection in connection with an evaluation of the Association Togolaise pour le Bien-Etre Familiale (ATBEF) youth center program was undertaken in April. A clean dataset, ready for analysis, was generated in the later part of June.

Washington Update

On April 10, FOCUS sponsored two meetings: (1) among the FOCUS partners to discuss pending matters and the FOCUS end-of-project (EOP) activities; and (2) among the partners, staff and consultants to discuss the preliminary research and evaluation findings of FOCUS. A first draft of the document was completed and sent out for external review. The EOP meeting has been scheduled for September 24 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

FOCUS Project Assistant Indrani de Silva left FOCUS to take a job at the Smithsonian Institution. Kathy Buek has replaced her.

Phillip Starling has joined FOCUS as Office Manager/Administrative Assistant.

Reaching Sexually Exploited Children Under Age 16

By Milagros Tan and Leona D'Agnes

In the Philippines, some 100,000 to 500,000 minors younger than 18 are estimated to be involved in the sex industry. Studies undertaken by PATH (Program for Appropriate Technology in Health) and partner NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) in urban sex areas show that prostituted children are at high risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV because of low awareness of STIs and HIV, risky sex, drug-injecting practices, and minors' limited access to preventive measures and services at government social hygiene clinics.

In response to this serious problem, PATH/Philippines manages the education component of the AIDS Surveillance and Education Project (ASEP) in cooperation with the Philippines Department of Health and the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Its primary objective is to prevent a rapid increase of HIV/AIDS among the population by encouraging vulnerable groups to adopt preventive practices. Target groups for the project include female and male sex workers, men who have sex with men, customers of sex workers and, in some cities, users of injected drugs. An external assessment of the project, organized by USAID in 1997, urged ASEP to extend its preventive education and outreach services to sexually exploited children under age 16 (referred to as SECUS*).

ASEP's outreach component offers preventive education to SECUS in six urban centers that have thriving sex sectors. These include Angeles City in Luzon; Cebu and Ilo-

ilo in Central Visayas; and Zamboanga, Davao and General Santos in Mindanao. Trained peer educators learn to counsel about prevention methods, guide group interactions, and participate in skills-train-

alogues and scripts to fit their own lives and situations. Facilitators process the experience at the end of the session, opening up avenues of discussion for the more reticent participants.



Boys singing their HIV/AIDS prevention messages

ing workshops. These efforts were successful with adult outreach programs; topics and approaches were modified to suit the SECUS target group.

Strategic Approach: Getting Young People to Talk (GYPTT)

One of the innovative methods used to engage SECUS was developed specifically for ASEP. Getting Young People to Talk (GYPTT) is a communication tool based on dialogues and scripts taken from the actual experience of children involved in sex work. These dialogues and scripts were documented as life stories by ASEP and form a basis for GYPTT. GYPTT is used by both the SECUS and adult outreach teams for eliciting issues and providing a safe, nonjudgmental forum for sharing. This method is effective because it provides a direct and realistic experience within a controlled environment. Participants are given guidance in revising and altering di-

The most commonly cited problem in two years of implementing SECUS outreach services is the lack of medical treatment for children who have STIs. Children with STIs face greater constraints when seeking treatment than do adult sex workers. NGOs without clinical support are dependent on the government's social hygiene clinics to provide treatment. Unfortunately, however, some localities discriminate against minors, and the government clinics, in general, lack

supplies of appropriate STI drugs and personnel with experience in managing adolescent reproductive health problems. Moreover, feedback about the quality of STI care at the government clinics has not always been positive. NGOs have also developed a referral system with other NGOs and medical services, but continue to acknowledge the dearth of child- and adolescent-friendly services. A lack of national guidelines for treatment of childhood STI cases is yet another constraint that NGO clinicians face.

Examples of Lessons Learned

A pilot program in Cebu City addressed policy issues affecting sexual exploitation of children. Spearheaded by one NGO, the idea was to increase community officials' awareness of national laws and local ordinances that protect children from sexual exploitation and STIs/HIV/AIDS. The project team held intense information sessions with community leaders, parents and

*ASEP uses the term *child* for those young people under 16; FOCUS' work includes young people ages 10-19.

"ASEP's success in using theater as a vehicle for peer education training and outreach is one example of child-friendly education methods."

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other interested parties to discuss the laws that protect children and how to implement these laws more effectively. As a result, in one year, recruitment of children into the sex industry and child abuse cases in five selected *barangays* (municipal communities) decreased. The initiative's success is being replicated in four other cities for ASEP's 2000-2002 project cycle.

Preliminary evaluation of behavior change shows that SECUS outreach activities have made strides against sexual exploitation in the communities. Children are more aware of lifestyle risk factors; they are learning how to negotiate condom use with their sexual partners; and, with the help of NGOs, street children have been successfully organized into associations to give them a voice in their communities. NGOs have strengthened their capacity to identify and manage children with genital discharge and other STI syndromes. In one city alone (Cebu), over 900 high-risk children were screened and positive cases were managed at the point of first contact using prepackaged "STI syndrome selective (SSS) kits" provided by PATH. However, these activities must be further evaluated to measure their impact.

Factors for Successful Health Projects for Children

- ASEP asserts that peer education is both cost-effective and efficient in providing access to children and adolescents involved in the sex industry. A child is more likely to listen to someone close to his or her age and will be less suspicious of a peer's motives than an adult's. It is also helpful to find a peer educator consid-

ered to be a leader in a gang or clique. His or her influence on other group members is invaluable.

- Information, Education, and Communication materials and training modules should be reevaluated for their "child-friendliness." Most people do not enjoy sitting in lectures, and this is especially true of children and adolescents. The time needed to train and impart information in an appealing manner is a worthwhile investment to improve the chances that the first encounter with the client will be successful and will lead to further sessions. ASEP's success in using theater as a vehicle for peer education training and outreach is one example of child-friendly education methods.
- Providing a safe place where children can play and feel less inhibited leads to successful outreach. Sites at which a room was made available for children during the daytime attracted more clients than sites at which outreach was attempted on the street or in communities. These rooms don't have to be fancy, but a few toys and a place to rest give the child a feeling of refuge against hostile elements.

As ASEP moves toward the next stage, SECUS will take a larger role in developing outreach education strategies. PATH plans to integrate ASEP into a larger reproductive health model to improve the chances of sustaining the community-based intervention, through promotion of ownership by the local government and the NGOs that collaborate with ASEP on AIDS prevention.

Teens in youth camp creating art

