

NHDR Network
Consolidated Reply
24 March 2000

NHDR on youth mobilisation

Request from UNDP Bosnia & Herzegovina

REQUEST

UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina is working on issues related to mobilisation of the youth for development. With a very high unemployment rate among the youth in the country, UNDP is considering programming around the theme of mobilisation of the youth. The Country Office is also supporting the preparation of the National Human Development Report with youth as the theme. We will appreciate information on [NHDRs that have focused on youth issues], youth oriented projects or programs or activities from different country offices and, also, of CVs of possible consultants familiar with youth issues.

[requested through Manoj Basnyat, SURF Bratislava]

REPLIES

1. Kims Ligers, UNDP Latvia <kims.legers@undp.org>

UNDP and the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Latvia have a number of initiatives that could be interesting:

1. One chapter of the Latvia Human Development Report 1999 focuses on "The market economy, democracy, globalization and youth". I can send the text file to anyone interested.
2. The Office of the UNRC organizes an annual schools conference on UN Day at which 100 school students discuss a range of issues (poverty, health, human rights are some examples) and ways in which they can raise awareness of/contribute towards solving these issues in their communities. A lot of interesting ideas are generated by the young people themselves.
3. In conjunction with the UN Day conference, the office of the UNRC runs an annual competition for schools to submit actual projects on the above subjects. The projects themselves are not funded, but the best in each category are awarded a prize (a few hundred dollars) paid for from SRC funds. This has proved an excellent stimulus for creative thinking.

Let me know if any of these are of interest.

2. Richard Jolly, HDRO, <richard.jolly@undp.org>

Bill Angel of the UN is a very lively and dynamic person, always encouraging the HDRs to find ways to bring in issues of youth. I suggest you contact him. His UN phone number is (212) 963 1380.

3. Piotr Mazurkiewicz, UNDP Poland <piotr.mazurkiewicz@undp.org>

You should find a lot of information in our (Polish) 1998 NHDR, which has focused on the issue of equal access to education. The chapter no. 4 has been exclusively devoted to the education and labour market. I hope it would be helpful.

4. Niel Buhne, UNDP Belarus, <niel.buhne@undp.org>

The UNDP programme here and the NHDR has done little specific on youth. However in my capacity as RC I have become very familiar with the UNICEF programme which in almost all places (including Belarus) have youth as a focus. Similarly last year the theme of UNAIDS was youth and HIV/AIDS. From both there should be a rich amount of regional and global experience, which could be applied.

5. Abla Awami, UNDP Sudan, <abla.awami@undp.org>

UNDP/Jordan office is currently in the process of producing their first NHDR that focuses exclusively on youth issues. The chapters have been drafted already and they examine interesting issues including integration and alienation, unemployment, education, etc.

You can address the RR there Mr. Jorgen Lissner for a copy of the proj. document as well as a detailed outline of the chapters. Moreover, UNDP/Lebanon published last year NHDR on youth as well. Randa (randa.aboul-hosn@undp.org) from the office there can help you in this regard. If you need further information please let me know.

6. Shashikant Nair, UNDP Fiji, <shashikant.nair@undp.org>

UNDP Fiji is part of an Inter-Agency Task Force on Youth (IATFY). IATFY, under UNICEF Fiji coordination produced in 1998 the "State of Pacific Youth Report, 1998". Copies of the report are not available electronically but hard copies may be obtained from UNICEF, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji - or e-mail request to: unicef@is.com.fj.

The *Pacific Human Development Report, 1999* also has a chapter on "Broadening Opportunities for Education and Training" which may be found useful. The full report may be viewed on the UNDP Fiji website's library link at <http://www.undp.org.fj/library.htm>

7. Christian De Clercq, UNDP Lebanon, <christian.de.clercq@undp.org.lb>

I have just come back from a country office retreat and would like to offer the following information regarding the query on youth. The theme, of the 1998 NHDR published in by the Lebanon Country Office in November 1998, was Youth and Development (an Arabic version was published subsequently mid-1999) - as indicated by Basil El-Husseini in his message of yesterday. Hard copies of the report are still available in English and Arabic. An electronic copy should be available from the HDRO site (though I can not confirm as it was impossible to connect with the site in the past few hours).

The theme of Youth and Development was chosen as youth are not only important beneficiaries from development action, but also important change agents. In this latter respect, and following the long period of war and civil thrive, there are enormous expectations for youth to fulfil. However, and particularly in the light of the difficult socio-economic situation and the distortions created and developed in society and in the economy in the past two decades, youth is faced with a number of particularly difficult issues, including employment and participation. The report was given excellent and sustained attention by the different media and has been used as resource and

reference by countless groups and in scores of meetings. The findings of the report have projected youth issues to the fore of the national agenda. The challenge has been to translate these into specific policy and programme initiatives.

An important observation is that the NHDR in Lebanon is not just the preparation of a report; it is a highly dynamic, participatory process, which involves a number of supporting activities involving different groups of stakeholders. At the very outset, we were fortunate to be able to organize a meeting and discussion between the UN Secretary-General and youth from different universities. Likewise, upon publication, there is particular attention paid to widespread dissemination through different initiatives. Again as an example, I would like to mention the Youth Expression Night organized on 1 January 2000, in which 30 youth representing a broad spectrum of NGOs and civil society discussed with a panel of leading national experts (including the Ministers of National Education and of Finance) their views and expectations for the new millennium. We feel that this process of supporting and accompanying activities is particularly important in making a difference on a specific theme.

I directed and managed the process and Dr. Riad Tabbarah was the National Coordinator and main author (collating, synthesizing and streamlining the different parts, including the statistical data set). His coordinates are: E-mail: rtabbarah@compuserv.com Tel/fax: 961 1 345 742.

I would like to strongly recommend as an expert on youth and employment, Mr. David Newing, Consultant and Advisor to IDRC (Canada), (who is also active on the world youth employment initiative). His coordinates are: E-mail: dnewing@ibm.net; Tel: 1 703 370 7653.

I would also like to draw your attention that there are a great number of very interesting sites on youth and development (particularly, there is a rich Canadian experience). A few examples are listed below:

- The Institute for Leadership Development <<<http://www.ildglobal.yorku.ca>>>
- The Canadian Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development <<<http://www.ceed.ednet.ns.ca>>>
- Social Entrepreneurship <<<http://www.ashoka.org>>>
- The International Junior Achievement Programme <<<http://www.jaintl.com>>>
- Youth Resource Network of Canada <<<http://www.youth.gc.ca>>>

Should you need any further information, please revert.

8. Basil Al-Hussaini, UNDP Iraq, <al-hussaini@un.org>

The best thematic NHDR published lately, addressing "Youth" as its theme was the Lebanon 1998 NHDR. The following is a summary of its content:

1. An International Perspective on Youth: Youth and Education/Employment/Health/Family formation/Public participation and Gender issues.
2. The Demography of Youth: Youth population, age distribution, the distribution of youth, migration (internal and international) and marital status.
3. Youth and the Labour Force: Economic activities, conditions of work (wages and salaries and job security) and unemployment.

4. Youth and Education: the education system, growth and accessibility of education, illiteracy, quality of education, relevance and accessibility of education.
5. Youth and Health: The national health situation, youth and reproductive health, health risks and most frequent health problems of youth.
6. Youth and family formation: Marriage, fertility, divorce, family structure, some policy implications.
7. Youth and public participation: Political participation, confessionalism and integration, social participation.

UNDP Lebanon can provide CVs of possible consultants. I also suggest that ESCWA (in Beirut) could be contacted for more information. Best regards.

9. Kadi Mänd, UNDP Estonia <kadi.mand@undp.org>

The UN System in Estonia will publish a book analysing the situation and problems of children and youth in Estonia at the beginning of May. The book consists of various articles written exclusively by Estonian researchers and experts. The topics cover such areas as children in institutions, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual abuse, abuse at school, youth crime and looks at risks in different types of families, risks of poverty, risks of unhealthy behaviour etc. The book also quotes children when they speak with their own words about their lives, attitudes and beliefs. The editors consist of a team of three people with different backgrounds. Two are researchers from two different universities and one is an expert from a NGO, the Estonian Children's Union. This is to ensure a well balanced, informative book that gives hard facts and data without being a strictly academic publication.

The book will be launched at a press conference and during the same day special lectures on these topics will be held at the Tallinn Pedagogical University. The lectures are primarily meant for students but open also for the public.

The book will be available at UNDP Estonia's homepage at the same time as the launching at our address www.undp.ee

10. R. Sudarshan, UNDP India, <r.sudarshan@undp.org>

It very refreshing that UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina is thinking of producing a NHDR with youth as its main theme. Considering the demographic profile of many developing countries there is no doubt that quantum leaps in development are possible if the energies and imagination of youth is properly are properly mobilised.

The instinct to question the old order and fashion a new one that is natural in young people has been dampened in recent years. The forces of competition and ensuing insecurity force young people to stick to the beaten track, quelling the instincts to question and rebel. The strong movements of young people opposed to wars and nuclear weapons have assumed the air of nostalgia. Yet the spirit of egalitarianism and peace can only be nourished if young people rediscover their potential to bring about changes in the unequal international system we have today.

One of the less known programmes in India is the Nehru Youth Centre network (Nehru Yuvak Kendra), supported by the Ministry of Human Resources, Department of Youth Affairs and Sports. This is possibly the largest network of youth clubs in the world. Many of them have been doing an admirable job in development efforts in their localities. UNDP in India regularly collaborates in an annual event to give awards to outstanding youth belonging to the network. The Yuvak Kendra model has been replicated by others.

One example is the Rural Legal Entitlement Kendra (RLEK), currently receiving support from UNDP. RLEK pioneered public interest litigation for environmental conservation by bringing a case in the Supreme Court of India to secure a ban on lime-stone mining which was decimating the beautiful Doon Valley in the vicinity of Dehra Dun in the foot-hills of the Himalaya. Avdesh Kaushal, the founder of RLEK, has a great deal of experience, and he has served on the faculty of the premier civil service academy in India located in Mussoorie near Dehra Dun.

A lot of young people in India are involved in the campaigns against the new patent law required by India's accession to WTO, against genetic manipulation of life forms and plants (Gene Campaign), against the injustice done to victims of the gas leak in the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal, and in environmental and conservation causes. Kaplavriksh, an organisation of students, has made a mark in environment issues, and one of its founders, Ashish Kothari would be valuable as a consultant in other countries.

Recently, UNDP, UNESCO and UNV supported a young conservationist who is engaged in the Culture of Peace in the Punjab, using conservation of shrines (not listed by the Archaeological Survey) that are sacred to the local population as the entry point to catalyse cooperation and harmony in conflict-ridden settings. Gurmeet Rai, an architect-conservationist, is a young woman who has already made a big through with this pioneering approach. It has the potential of fostering peace even among communities of the Punjab that are now sadly divided into two warring countries - India and Pakistan. Youth organisations in India who work on the wounds of partition of the country would have a special resonance in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We would be happy to provide Manoj Basnyat contact details of leaders of youth organisations in India who could be helpful in the process of mobilising youth for development in his troubled region.

11. Laura Mourino-Casas, HDRO, <laura.mourino-casas@undp.org>

I am very encouraged to see that Bosnia and Herzegovina will be preparing an NHDR with youth as its theme.

With this said, I also think it is critical to assess the human development profile of this particularly vulnerable group. Only after clearly identifying what are the their (youths) largest shortfalls will it be possible to adequately design plans of action to further enhance their human development.

A human development profile of the youth can be prepared (and presented) in many imaginative manners. For instance, the NHDR could include an annex section very much like the HDRs 95, 97 and 99 have done. This annex section would be theme specific and might include perhaps 3-7 tables. Each table could be clustered around a critical human development dimension. For instance, immediately what comes to my mind is perhaps structuring the tables as follows:

a- Demographic profile

- b- Educational profile
- c- Health profile
- d- Labour market
- e- Participation
- f- Security

Of course in each of these tables I think it is essential to capture disparities between the youth and perhaps the working age and/or elderly. And each table should ideally contain gender-disaggregated data for the youth.

In other words, the annex section should clearly answer the following questions: What's happening with the youth of Bosnia and Herzegovina? How does this differ from the rest of the population? Are they (youth) more empowered than their grandparents were when they were young? Than their parents? Are young women more vulnerable than young men? Amongst the youth, who are the most empowered (those in urban areas, those with college degrees, those with access to private health care)?

In fact, the team could even explore preparing a sort of HPI disaggregated by the different age groups. This is feasible and of course requires far more brainstorming than is possible at this moment. But I would be more than happy to discuss this issue further with the team and explore possible indicators for the HPI.

If I had more time, I would be more than happy to send a very crude and draft annex table design that they might want to consider. And I am definitely available for further brainstorming on the HPI exercise.

Hope this helps.

12. Mehmet Yilmaz, UNDP Mongolia <mehmet.yilmaz@undp.org>

As per your request, I am please to share with you the following explanatory note and a document, and hope you would find them useful in your youth related activities. [Note from Hakan: document too big to enclose here. Will send it seperately to Manoj]

The UN Country Team, in Mongolia, carried out OneWorld Conference Series so called Youth and Mongolia Into the 21st century. The 1998/1999 OneWorld Conference Series empowered Mongolia's youth, its citizens, and ultimately its leaders, to take action on issues of global importance in the development of their own communities. The Government of Mongolia and the United Nations country team, in a country where 50.8 per cent of the people are under 20 years of age, organized a series of high visibility national conferences to involve youth in a policy dialogue with the Government of Mongolia with regard to areas for integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences.

The OneWorld UN Conference Series presented an opportunity to revisit five key world conferences of the 1990s, i.e. the World Summit for Children, the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, and the Fourth World Conference on Women. The series of conferences concluded with a "Millennium Summit", which gave youth an opportunity to develop a holistic National Development Strategy representing their ideas and opinions with regard to Mongolia in the next century.

The OneWorld Conference Series initiated, in partnership with the Government of Mongolia, NGOs and donors, a situation analysis on where the country stands in its follow-up to the above-mentioned five global conferences. The results of the OneWorld Conference Series constitute a sound basis, and provide valuable inputs for the preparation of a CCA and UNDAF, which the United Nations country team is in the process of preparing.

The OneWorld Conference Series was facilitated with the support of SRC funds and co-financed by country team members, bilateral donors and the Government of Mongolia. It was implemented by a Mongolian NGO. More information on the OneWorld UN Conference Series can be retrieved at the website <http://www.un-mongolia.mn/oneworld/index.html>. Alternatively, please contact the Resident Coordinator Support Officer, Mr. Mehmet Yilmaz, at mehmet.yilmaz@undp.org.

END

Moderated by Hakan Bjorkman
NHDR Facilitator
HDRO/SURF