



YouthNet

Integration of Youth Participation and Leadership: The Tanzania Experience

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Youth Participation in Tanzania

Primary areas of intervention:

- Institutional level (YouthNet country office)
- Capacity building of local partners
- Program implementation



Institutional Level (1)



- *Youth Executive Committee (YEC):*
 - 15 members (age 18-24) from 3 regions
 - Selected by youth and local government
 - Provides oversight and guidance to improve program responsiveness
 - Meets regularly to review progress
 - Assists with program implementation



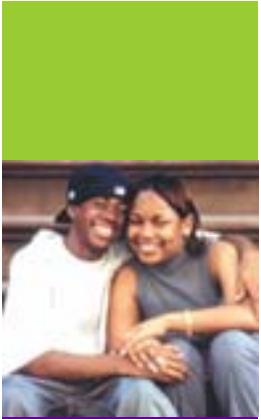
Institutional Level (2)

- *Internship program:*
 - Opportunity for national and international young professionals
 - Sponsored 12 interns from March 2005 to August 2006
 - Support program activities including M&E, youth-adult partnerships (YAP), and finance/administration



Capacity Building

- Capacity building of local partners in youth participation through:
 - Formal trainings
 - On-the-job training
 - Technical assistance visits
- Young people part of trainings and activities on BCC, M&E, assessments, Y-PEER TOT for peer education, community theater, proposal development, and report writing



Program Implementation (1)

- Youth work in partnership with technical staff to implement research, assessments, and program activities:
 - Faith-based participatory learning and action (PLA) assessment – 2004
 - Iringa Youth Behavior Survey – 2004
 - BCC formative assessment – 2005
 - Assessment to strengthen youth involvement in *National Plan of Action for Most Vulnerable Children* – 2006

Program Implementation (2)

- Behavior Change Communication (BCC) interventions:
 - Youth involved in planning, designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating community-based activities
 - Youth-led organizations supported with sub-grants and technical assistance
 - Adults provide technical support



Challenges

- Adults can be rigid to change
- Volunteerism frequently an issue
- Diversity among youth:
 - Age range is large, i.e. 10-24
 - Professional vs. non professional, rural vs. urban
 - Different levels of exposure and experience, capabilities and capacities
- Language
 - English vs. Swahili



Results



- Adult staff increasingly consulted with youth at all levels of programming
- Young people gained skills in technical areas (e.g., PLA, BCC) as well as in program implementation
- Policies and programs benefited from youth involvement
 - Adaptation of peer education guidelines and standards by the Ministry of Health as the National tool.

Lessons Learned and Conclusions



- Youth participation is not only a technical skill, but a *behavior change process* for both *youth and adults*
- With efforts from youth and support from adults, meaningful youth involvement can be achieved
- *Youth Participation Guide* can build technical skills – but should be combined with creating a supportive environment for program implementation

Thank you for listening
Asante Sana!