



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

October 2005

Newsletter



Better Policy, Healthier Youth

youth-policy.com

News

Peru Approves National Policy on Adolescent Health

In February 2005, the Peruvian Ministry of Health approved new national guidelines on adolescent health. The guidelines promote universal access to integrated and differentiated health services, with a special emphasis on mental health and reproductive health.

For more information, visit:

http://www.policyproject.com/pubs/YRHCBS/Peru_brief.pdf

Search the youth-policy.com database for more polices from Latin America addressing youth reproductive health issues.

New Study Examines Youth Reproductive Health (YRH) Policies in Europe

The European Commission is supporting a comprehensive analysis of YRH policies in 37 European nations. The results from the first stage of research, conducted by Lund University, will be released in late 2005. Additional results will be reported in the first half of 2006. The study aims to enhance efforts to advocate for comprehensive YRH policies at local and national levels.

Search the youth-policy.com database for European policies pertaining to youth reproductive health.

Online Discussion Forum Focuses on Youth Reproductive Health Advocacy

YouthNet, in collaboration with the Implementing Best Practices in Reproductive Health (IBP) Initiative of the World Health Organization, is coordinating an online discussion forum titled "Youth Advocacy Group." The forum, a follow-up to the February 2005 workshop, *Repositioning Family Planning in West Africa for Youth: Advocacy to Action*, held in Ghana, aims to enhance collaboration and information sharing. The community library and calendar allows members to share relevant documents and resource materials and to post upcoming events.

To join the online discussion forum, email HWoldeyohannes@fhi.org.

The *youth-policy.com* newsletter includes recent news, events, and current policymaking efforts within the rapidly changing field of youth reproductive health. The *youth-policy.com* website, launched in 2004, is an online resource for improving youth reproductive health and HIV policies worldwide and is used by youth, policymakers, NGOs, donors, and technical experts. This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. Both *youth-policy.com* and the newsletter are brought to you by the Adolescent Working Group, POLICY Project in collaboration with YouthNet/Family Health International.

In Their Own Words: Practitioners Talk About Policy Impact

Through support from the POLICY Project, CEPROMUN, an NGO based in Trujillo, Peru, recently carried out a participatory diagnosis of health needs of youth in the La Libertad region of northern Peru. Unplanned pregnancy and STIs emerged as major concerns for young people. Fanny Ruiz, regional coordinator for *ForoSalud*, an alliance of Peruvian civil society organizations working to improve health, commented on the impact the study has had on the policy and program environment:

“When the study results were presented to the municipal and regional authorities it was a real wake-up call. A year ago it wasn’t so easy to openly discuss the reproductive health problems of youth. The diagnostic study has helped sensitize health workers and municipal officials to the needs of young people. With the detailed plan developed on the basis of the study, policymakers have clear guidelines for action. Although many health staff still find it difficult to provide non-judgmental care to young people, greater attention is now being paid to the specific needs of youth. This study and the resulting follow-up plan also complement our other efforts to work for improvements in the overall health policy environment in La Libertad.”



Events



Inter-Agency Consultation on the Youth Development Index

July 18–19, 2005

London, United Kingdom

This consultative meeting was organized in collaboration with UNICEF by the Commonwealth Youth Program, the Youth Affairs Division of the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat. The meeting will involve youth experts from a variety of government and nongovernmental organizations to contribute feedback and ideas to the development of a Youth Development Index. The index will likely include YRH indicators.

www.thecommonwealth.org



3rd World Youth Congress

July 30–August 8, 2005

Stirling, Scotland

The 3rd World Youth Congress in Scotland brought together 600 young activists involved in the field of sustainable development from 120 different countries. Discussions highlighted what young people are doing to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals, including the goals related to HIV/AIDS prevention and maternal and child health.

http://europa.eu.int/youth/news/index_1222_en.html



Youth at the United Nations
www.un.org/youth

International Youth Day

August 12, 2005

This year's theme was "Making Commitments Matter – the Tenth Anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth." In addition, the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly held special meetings on youth issues.

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyd2005.htm>



Five Year Review of the Millennium Declaration by the UN General Assembly

September 14–16, 2005,

New York

Millennium Summit+5 consisted of a high-level meeting of the General Assembly to review the progress that has been made in the five years since the finalization of the Millennium Declaration. Goal 5 "Improve maternal health" and Goal 6 "Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other infectious diseases" directly affect youth reproductive health around the world.

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

New on youth-policy.com

New Links and Resources

United Nations World Youth Report 2005: Main Findings and Recommendations

The UN Programme on Youth held consultative meetings in February 2005 to review achievements made since the 1995 adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY). The outcome documents, together with national evaluations, will form a

supplement to the Secretary-General's World Youth Report 2005. See the summary reports of the discussions and recommendations from the meetings at the link below.

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr05.htm>



YouthActionNet

YouthActionNet is an interactive website focused on the vital role that youth play in leading positive change around the world. Launched in 2001 by the International Youth Foundation (IYF) and Nokia, YouthActionNet serves as a virtual gathering place for young people to exchange ideas for how to make a difference in their communities. This website strengthens the existing skills of youth to be advocates for change on issues such as HIV/AIDS and reproductive health.

<http://www.youthactionnet.org/who>

Search the youth-policy.com database for policies addressing HIV/AIDS and youth.



Child and Adolescent Mental Health Policies and Plans

A module of the World Health Organization's mental health policy and guidance package for countries, this publication outlines the social and economic context for mental health, and provides guidance on developing and implementing a child and adolescent mental health policy and plan.

http://www.who.int/mental_health/policy/en/Child%20%20Ado%20Mental%20Health_final.pdf

Go to youth-policy.com to read about high-risk youth sub-populations, and their inclusion in policymaking.

Protecting Youth from HIV/AIDS in the Developing World

The director of the Office of HIV/AIDS in the Bureau for Global Health at the U.S. Agency for International Development discusses the emphasis placed on youth and HIV prevention in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

http://www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PCAAB268.pdf

Search the youth-policy.com database for policies addressing HIV/AIDS and youth.



Going to Scale in Ethiopia: Mobilizing Youth Participation in a National HIV/AIDS Program

This case study from the Synergy Project and FHI describes how a participatory learning and action (PLA) process assisted youth in communicating with other young people and adults about sexual and reproductive health care

needs. This consultative process facilitated a national youth evaluation and needs assessment to affect national policy and services. The use of the PLA process is an example of an effective methodology for addressing the holistic sexual and reproductive health care needs of young people.

<http://www.synergyaids.com/documents/GoingToScaleInEthiopia.pdf>

Go to youth-policy.com to read more on youth participation in policymaking efforts and for policies addressing HIV/AIDS and youth.

Feedback and Evaluation

Just in!

The April 2005–June 2005
youth-policy.com Monitoring Report

See full report details on youth-policy.com.
Send your comments, questions, requests, and ideas to yrh@policyproject.com.

To subscribe to the youth-policy.com newsletter, or to contribute ideas or feedback or ask questions, please email yrh@policyproject.com. For copies of publications, please contact the organization referenced at the end of the article.

The POLICY Project is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under Contract No. HRN-C-00-00-00006-00, beginning July 7, 2000. It is implemented by Futures Group in collaboration with The Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) and Research Triangle Institute (RTI).

YouthNet is a global program funded by USAID to improve reproductive health and HIV prevention needs of youth ages 10 to 24. Led by Family Health International (FHI), partners include CARE International and the Research Triangle Institute (RTI).

Inclusion of publications and resources in the youth-policy.com newsletter does not imply endorsement. The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of USAID.

Photos courtesy of Photoshare (<http://www.photoshare.org>) and the following photographers: Aimee Centivany (1999); Bell Sotto (1998); John Samples (2000); Mike Jay Browne (2000); Sammy Ndwiga (2001); and Sara A. Holtz (1996).



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



YouthNet
Partners in Reproductive Health and HIV Prevention