



Youth, Development and Livelihood

Washington Network on Children and Armed Conflict

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Global Youth Microenterprise Conference

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- Purpose
- Participants
- Themes





Core Themes

Theme I: The Role of Youth Microenterprise in the 21st Century

Theme II: Strategies to Address the Needs of Youth Entrepreneurs

Theme III: Building Partnerships & Advancing Youth Microenterprise to Support Social and Economic Development





Broad Conference Findings and Outcomes

Related to Youth Enterprise, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Development

- Engage youth in all aspects of project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.
- Ensure programs offer youth options for employment as well as entrepreneurship.
- Understand the youth population and market prior to program implementation.





Broad Conference Findings and Outcomes

Related to Youth Enterprise, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Development

- Incorporate monitoring and evaluation strategies *from the beginning* into long-term project plans.
- Take a holistic approach towards meeting young people's multi-faceted needs and interests, including developing youths':
 - Life skills
 - Employability skills
 - Entrepreneurial skills
 - Financial literacy
 - Access to investment capital



Findings Specifically Related to Youth Enterprise, Entrepreneurship, and Livelihood Development *in Conflict-Affected Areas*

- Understand and address multiple and complex problems operating in conflict-affected areas related to youth livelihood development.
- Partner with local and international organizations and initiatives working on other matters related to the conflict to facilitate the development of a holistic approach.
- Engage the community to build trust and buy-in.
- Build local capacity for sustainability.





Findings Specifically Related to Youth Enterprise, Entrepreneurship, and Livelihood Development *in Conflict-Affected Areas*

- Empower youth to play a role in their country's, community's and personal development.
- Use participatory training as an effective tool for transferring knowledge.
- Ensure financing options do not distort market mechanisms.
- Invoke specific strategies to ensure the needs of female youth are being met.





Findings Specifically Related to Youth Enterprise, Entrepreneurship, and Livelihood Development *in Conflict-Affected Areas*

- Integrate ex-combatants with non-combatants.
- Include additional components to monitoring and evaluation strategies.

More research and knowledge is needed....





Case Study Example Applying the Holistic Approach in Guinea

Background:

- Guinea has 500,000+ refugees from Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ivory Coast
- Border incursions in 2000-2001
- Increasing tensions in an already poor country





Applying the Holistic Approach in Guinea

ARC's PATHWAYS Project Objectives:

1. To improve community capacity to prevent and respond to violence through the creation of a network of community management committees and youth conflict prevention animators;
2. Create greater youth and community capacity to resist violence through a program of conflict prevention-oriented life skills training for 5,000 at-risk youth aged 16-35; and
3. Remove economic incentives for potential conflict by providing and facilitating access to economic opportunities for 1,600 at-risk youth.





Applying the Holistic Approach in Guinea

- Conducted initial assessment
- Selected Southeastern forest region
- 25% of population 15 – 25 years old
- Targets for recruitment and abduction of young soldiers





Applying the Holistic Approach in Guinea

- ARC provided literacy, numeracy and other life skills training.
- Making Cents adapted its *MicroEnterprise Fundamentals* course to local culture & market opportunities.
- Youth involved as lead trainers and facilitators.
- Forged linkages with local MFIs.





Applying the Holistic Approach in Guinea

Results after just 1 year:

- a reported decrease in poverty
- reduced interest in returning to combat
- reduced participation in violence
- fewer incidences of violence





Applying the Holistic Approach in Guinea

Key success factors:

1. The youth- and demand-driven approach helped ensure its relevancy and receptivity in this complex environment.
2. Implementers engaged the communities, which strengthened the commitment and support needed for the youth to succeed.
3. The youth facilitators and training participants were empowered from the beginning, and had clear and high expectations to achieve, which built their self-confidence and drive.





Applying the Holistic Approach in Guinea

4. The training of trainers and curriculum were experiential, hands-on, customized and culturally relevant.
5. By developing youth to be the trainers and linking to MFIs, sustainable impact continues beyond project's life.
6. Youth participants gained needed life and leadership skills to be successful in their businesses, more competitive in the labor market, and better prepared to manage their household economies.





For More Information

- Presentations available at:
www.ymeconference.org
www.makingcents.com
- “Youth Enterprise and Livelihood Development in Conflict Settings”: article in CHF Journal
- Conference publication
- 2008 Global Youth Enterprise Conference



Thank you

