



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Youth at USAID

2011 Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference

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USAID and Youth....



- USAID's first Policy on youth in development
- More robust evaluation, learning & use of evidence for youth program design
- Attention to scale and sustainability
- By, With and For Youth
- Coordination
- New players and partners

USAID Priorities in Youth

- **Asset-Based Approach:** Our philosophy is built on the principles of an asset-based approach to positive youth development, i.e. one that sees the opportunity in youth, seizes on their resources, and leverages the demographic dividend towards our overall development objective.
- **Cross-Sectoral:** We see economic opportunity of youth in connection with other domains of development. We also recognize that programs working with youth can be more effective when they look holistically at their opportunities, experiences. As we work more across sectors, we change the way we do business with ourselves and you – driving collaboration and broadening our shared development agenda.

USAID Priorities, continued

- **A research and learning agenda - Programs grounded in evidence:** The Agency is committed to being a learning and evidence-based enterprise. Our new evaluation policy was released in January. We have conducted a number of Evidence Summits – including for example last December’s summit on Promoting Economic Growth Evidence Summit.
- We look forward to building and analyzing the evidence base on youth programming and participation; and learning from ourselves, you - the youth development community - and of course youth themselves.

USAID Priorities, continued

- **Scale/ Sustainability:** We are interested in sustainability and scale of interventions, namely by working with the surrounding systems that affect youth economic opportunities, in other words addressing the systemic opportunities and constraints, and the institutions, that affect youth outcomes. We are looking for systemic capacity building programs that are designed and implemented to enable countries and communities to achieve youth impacts at or near cohort-level scale.
- **Youth Participation:** : We are committed to being “by and with” not just for youth, and continuing to engage and listen to youth. We are looking for programs that are youth-led and that have concrete elements of meaningful youth participation in design, implementation, and evaluation

Road Ahead – Innovation, Participation and Partnership

- Global Development Alliances
 - Global Give Back Circle
 - Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship
- Opportunities through the Development Innovation Ventures (DIV)
 - DIV is a mechanism for partners to propose cost-efficient, scalable solutions with the potential to significantly improve development outcomes. DIV provides competitive, staged financing to rigorously test these solutions and help scale those proven to produce impact.
 - With DIV stage 1 funding, Jhpiego is doing study of a \$1 marker pen to test for preeclampsia designed by Johns Hopkins students
 - DIV welcomes applications from many types of registered US and non US organizations

Opportunities through the Grand Challenges for Development

- Saving Lives at Birth

Road Ahead – Innovation, Participation and Partnership

- **Development Credit Authority**
 - To make vocational education and university more affordable and accessible, USAID/Kyrgyzstan designed a \$1.5 million loan portfolio guarantee with two Kyrgyz banks, to cover 50% of losses on a portfolio of loans for vocational and university education
 - Working with local banks in Kosovo to leverage Mission funds for over \$2million in loans to young entrepreneurs
- **USAID Forward Procurement Reforms**
 - Growing means to fund home-grown youth-led and youth-serving organizations
 - Increasing use of host country procurement systems – building capacity of youth and youth-serving institutions
- **New Central and Regional Procurements for Youth Programming**

Thank You

Welcome future comments and communication with
you.

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