

Involving Young People in Efforts to Combat HIV and AIDS in Africa: *The Importance of Income Generating Strategies*

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Outline

- Youth Unemployment
- The HIV and AIDS epidemic
- Roles young people can play in responding to the HIV and AIDS crisis
- How to integrate sustainable livelihood creation for youth with HIV and AIDS prevention, care, and support

Youth Unemployment

- 88.2 million young people worldwide unemployed in 2004
- Youth were 47% of world's unemployed in 2004
- 18.6 million (21%) youth in sub-Saharan Africa unemployed in 2003

Source: International Labour Organization, August 2004.

Global HIV and AIDS Estimates

- 39.5 million people worldwide living with HIV at the end of 2005
- 2.8 million deaths due to HIV and AIDS in 2005
- 4.1 million new HIV infections in 2005

Source: *UNAIDS/WHO AIDS Epidemic Update: December 2006*

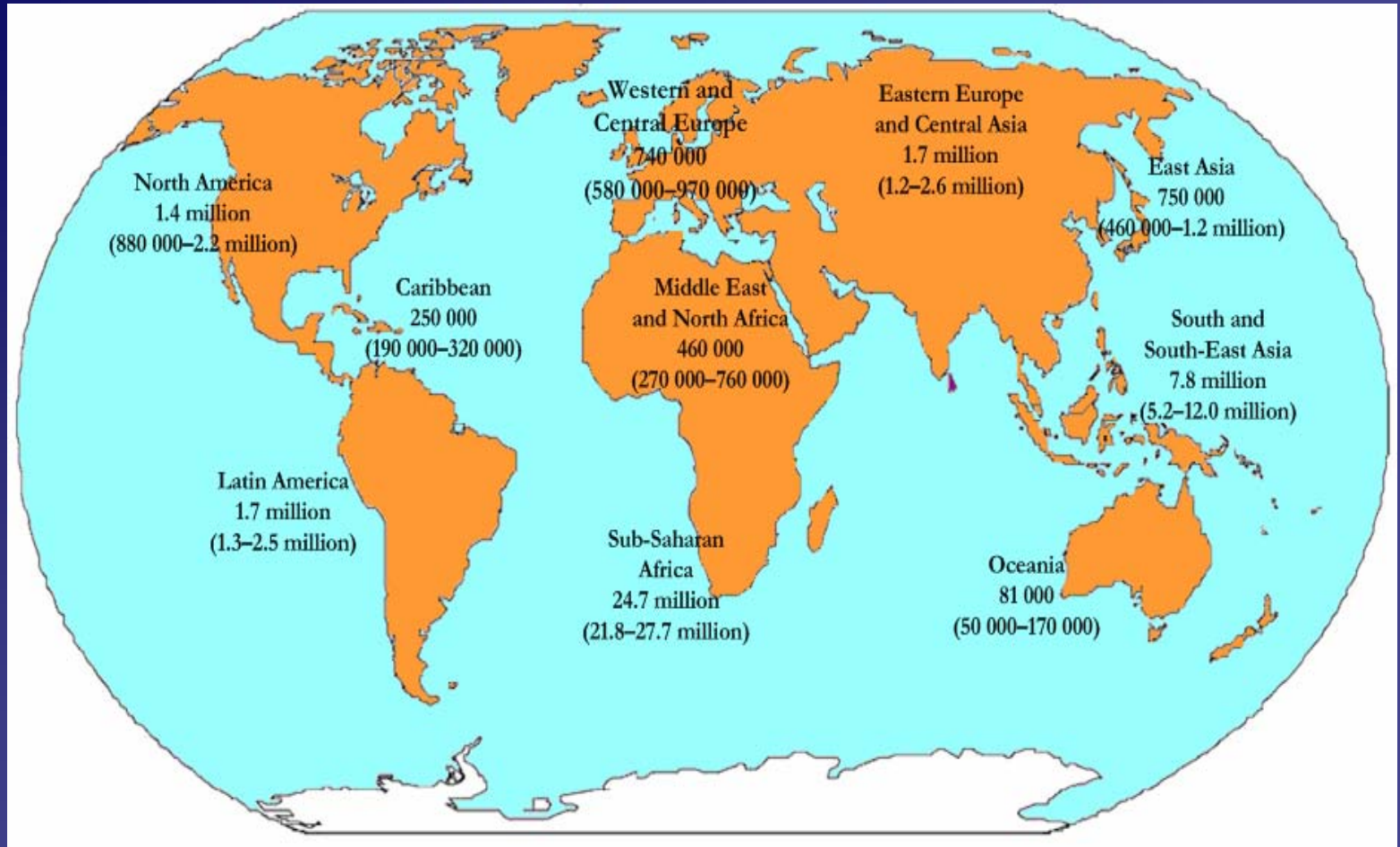
- Almost half of all new infections occur in young people ages 15-24

Source: *UNAIDS. 2004 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*

- 10 million young people worldwide living with HIV in 2004

Source: *United Nations. World Youth Report 2005*

Number of People Living with HIV



Total: 39.5 (34.1–47.1) million

Sub-Saharan Africa: 24.7 (21.8–27.7) million

Source: *UNAIDS/WHO AIDS Epidemic Update: December 2006*

Sub-Saharan Africa HIV and AIDS Estimates

- 24.5 million people living with HIV in 2005
- 6.2 million (25%) young people ages 15-24 living with HIV in 2005
- 2 million deaths due to HIV and AIDS in 2005

Source: UNAIDS. *2006 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*

The Impact of HIV and AIDS on Industries

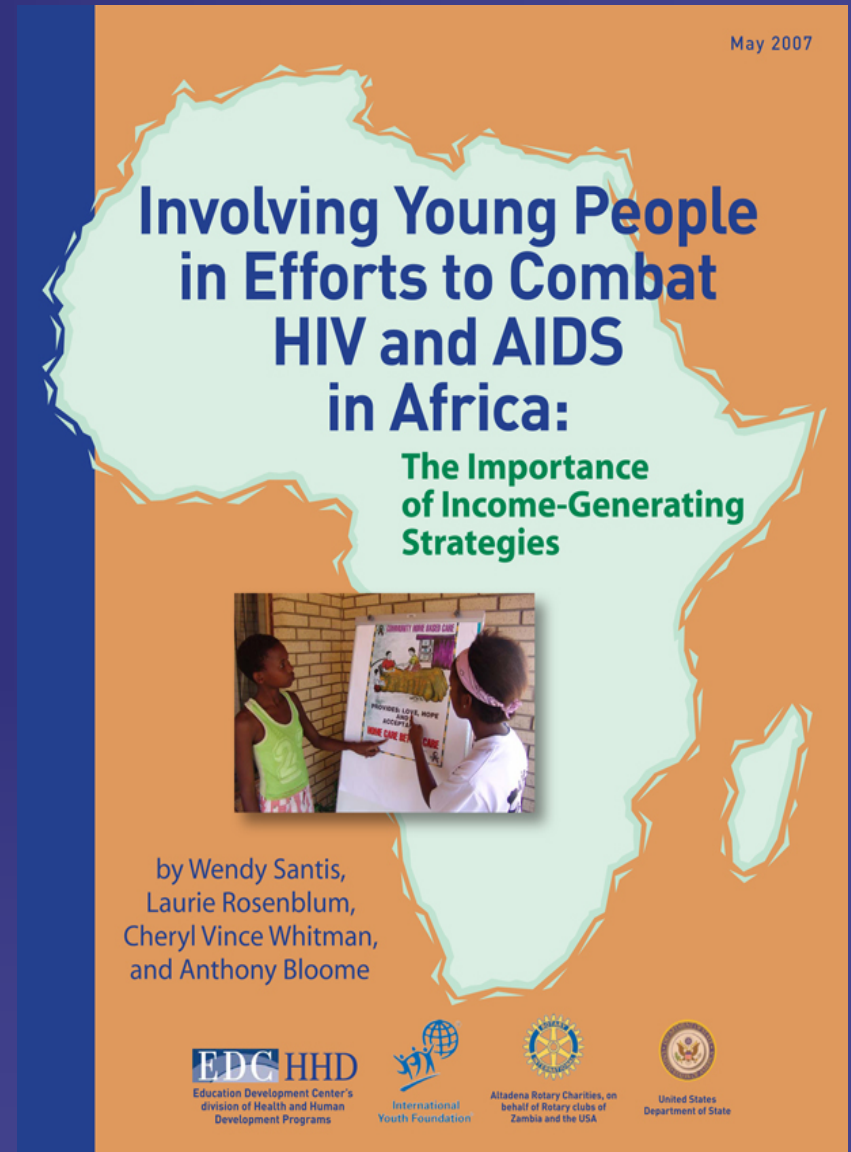
- Human suffering and loss of valued co-workers
- Health insurance, health care, and funeral costs
- Loss of knowledge and skills
- Declining profits
- Declining productivity

Youth Livelihoods and HIV and AIDS: The Connection

- Poverty heightens vulnerability to HIV and AIDS
- Infected youth face harsher economic realities
- Youth from AIDS-affected families experience increased economic problems
- Young females are more vulnerable to economic factors related to the epidemic
- Unemployed youth are more likely to migrate, which can lead to increased high-risk sexual activity

Key Action Steps

- Identify and develop work opportunities for youth in the field of HIV and AIDS
- Publicize and create greater awareness of these opportunities
- Provide skills training and mentoring, including through paid work



Youth Participation



Components of Involving Young People in the Response to the HIV and AIDS Epidemic

- Create awareness of opportunities
- Provide skills training and mentoring
- Train youth in enterprise development
- Identify and develop opportunities in HIV and AIDS work
- Create public/private partnerships

Roles for Young People in the Response to the HIV and AIDS Epidemic

- Peer educators in NGOs
- School-based health prevention specialists
- Activists and advocates for greater action
- Counselors in clinics
- Care and service providers for the sick
- Care and support providers for orphans
- Program designers, implementers, and evaluators

Youth Involvement and Networking



To ensure that services are effective, young people must be included in all phases of research, program design, implementation, outreach, monitoring, and evaluation. They understand the interests and needs of their peers and know the best ways to reach them.

Young People, HIV and AIDS, and Microenterprise Activities

Questions to Research:

- Can microfinance institutions (MFIs) allow younger clients to use their services if they come from an AIDS-affected household?
- If clients become ill, can MFI's or borrower groups mentor younger family members to take over businesses and replace sick adults as MFI clients?
- How can intergenerational business mentoring become a more broad-based effort to build youth entrepreneurship skills and link youth to microfinance services?

Advantages of Employing Youth in HIV and AIDS Work

- Youth gain greater awareness of HIV and AIDS for personal health and helping their community
- Youth advocate for, design, and provide HIV and AIDS education and services tailored for youth
- More jobs created for unemployed youth
- Youth earn income to support themselves and their AIDS-affected families
- More people to provide HIV and AIDS education and services

Case Study #1 – Youth Action Rangers of Nigeria

- Youth-run and focused non-profit organization
- Hires full-time and part-time paid staff ages 20-29 as well as volunteers
- Youth are paid to:
 - Conceptualize, develop, and implement programs and work plans
 - Design, implement, and facilitate trainings and workshops
 - Establish and coordinate activities of peer educators and counselors
 - Assess community needs

Case Study #2 – Students Partnership Worldwide

- Non-profit organization working in eight countries: Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, India, and Nepal
- Youth ages 18-24 in two programs are paid an allowance to cover basic expenses:
 - Health Education Program: Young people serve as peer educators
 - Young People We Care: Young people provide home-based care to people living with HIV and AIDS and their families

Case Study #3 – Family Health International (FHI)

- In Namibia, FHI partner organizations pay a small number of youth ages 18-30 for HIV and AIDS work and engage many more volunteers
- Youth paid responsibilities include:
 - Training peer educators and providing peer education
 - Providing outreach and counseling
 - Training and coordinating youth to provide psychosocial support and school work help to orphans and other vulnerable children

Action Areas to Increase Youth Employment in HIV and AIDS Work

- Promoting support for youth employment in HIV and AIDS work by multilateral, bilateral, and national organizations
- Linking strategies for youth employment in HIV and AIDS work with best practices in youth employment in general
- Supporting youth entrepreneurship in general and related to HIV and AIDS work
- Developing mentors in public health, education, international development, business, and other fields to promote youth interest and professional development



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