

## GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Target 12:** Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system
- Target 13:** Address the Special Needs of the Least Developed Countries
- Target 14:** Address the Special Needs of landlocked countries and small island developing States
- Target 15:** Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term
- Target 16:** In co-operation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth
- Target 17:** In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries
- Target 18:** In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

*Recently, local government, with financial support from the government of an industrialized country, replaced the fish market with a modern structure that will house the vendors and some local services. However, due to a lack of consultation in the planning phase and the resulting misunderstanding of the informal aspects of the present fish market, many of these poor youths, as well as other very poor market workers, found themselves excluded from the market reforms and lost their livelihoods.*

*ATD Fourth World (Tanzania)<sup>150</sup>*

*Youth efforts probably have strong effect; for example for first phase of the [World Summit for Information Society] WSIS, the national government did nothing to raise awareness about the Information Society and how ICT can help the struggle against poverty and education needed for development countries. [Instead] the Center for Assistance of IT Initiatives-CAITI, an organization in the civil society headed by youth, [raised awareness], and sent their contribution of Haitian youth to the WSIS.*

*Guyverson Vernous (Haiti) 29 years- old<sup>151</sup>*

### Introduction

Goal 8 holds the greatest potential to enfranchise the majority of today's alienated youth into the global economy, enabling them to become active partners and beneficiaries. MDG Target 16 "Develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth" is the only specific mention of "youth" in the MDGs. This chapter will focus on fair trade, youth employment and entrepreneurship and Information Communication Technology (ICTs).

The trade justice and fair trade movements are vital components in creating the global trading system envisaged by Target 12. Young people in the developed world are at the forefront of these movements. Their experiences demonstrate what can be achieved through global North-South partnerships between young people in support of a development agenda.

Youth employment can serve as the dominant means of community participation, active citizenship, autonomy, and independence. Finding the means, political will and the know-how to create a billion jobs over the next ten years that not only deliver economic benefits to young people, but also maintain (and even build) the environmental and social wealth, is perhaps one of the most important targets of the MDGs. Further, fostering entrepreneurship is vital in every part of the world and should be considered a key mechanism for development. Supporting young entrepreneurs in the developing world with education, financing, mentorship and encouragement is a critical pathway to bridging the digital divide and fostering the creation of sustainable livelihoods.

ICTs provide new opportunities for job creation, the formation of knowledge societies and even political participation. Young people are currently providing entrepreneurial leadership in ICT industries, creating jobs for themselves and for others, and forming innovative partnerships with the public and private sector. The

digital divide severely affects young people, especially leaving out youth in rural areas. Youth see ICTs as opportunities for education, business training, literacy, social activism and volunteerism.

### Youth At The Forefront Of Fair Trade

**8.1 Option for Action:** *Build and support opportunities for youth to participate in fair trade movement, and further develop open trading and financial systems that are rules-based, predictable and non-discriminatory.*

The trade justice and fair trade movements are vital components in creating the global trading system envisioned in Target 12. The current norms and laws of the international trading system bring disproportionate benefits to developed countries. Young people in the developed world are at the forefront of movements calling for fair trade. Their experiences demonstrate what can be achieved through global North-South partnerships between young people in support of a development agenda.

Oxfam's Make Trade Fair Campaign, and campaigns by various actors concerning labor issues including child labor and sweat shop labor, have proved very successful in recent years in raising awareness amongst consumers and citizens in developed countries and mobilizing them to change purchasing behavior, ask more of product supply chains and bring about consumer led change to the activities of multinationals towards practices more in line with social justice and sustainable development.<sup>152</sup>

Young people in the developed world are significant consumers and, through their purchasing power, access to resources, good education, etc., have significant potential to be harnessed in support of pro-development trade and consumption. The growth in the number of social and environmental labels, and growth in markets such as Fairtrade in the U.K., U.S. and Europe suggests that much can be achieved through fostering stronger partnerships between young people in the North and South. As these movements grow and continue to gain market share, the practices of large corporations and the trade rules that regulate global trade will be under increasing pressure to change in response to consumer demands.

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#### **Case Study 35: United Students for Fair Trade**

United Students for Fair Trade is a collaboration of students in the United States working toward economic justice through the promotion of Fair Trade products, principles, and policies<sup>153</sup>. They focus on building leaders for the global justice movement, mobilizing communities to support Fair Trade, building relationships across the North-South divide, and equipping organizers with resources. USFT recognizes that universities are a common arena for raising awareness of the inequities in the current exploitive model of global trade. However, the academic curriculum usually stops short of suggesting viable alternatives. USFT believes that reflection and study must be matched by commitment and action. USFT provides a coherent national voice for the student movement, and they undertake a range of initiatives to achieve their vision: "Students inspiring citizens and consumers to shape a global economy based on human relationships that are just and which nurture communities both locally and globally."

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## Youth Employment

**8.2 Option for Action:** *Address the issue of youth employment as a fundamental block to poverty eradication and as a powerful mechanism for delivering the MDGs*

**8.3 Option for Action:** *Strengthen and build partnerships between youth, public and private sector, such as the Youth Employment Summit and Youth Employment Network*

Decent and productive work for young people is central to reversing cycles of poverty. The importance of youth employment has been highlighted by many reports and initiatives over the last 5 years. Youth employment emerged on the international agenda the same time as the formation of the MDGs, with two key international initiatives commencing in the governmental forum with the Youth Employment Network<sup>154</sup> (a partnership between the World Bank, the ILO and the UN) and the civil society initiative, with the Youth Employment Summit (YES).<sup>155 156</sup>

The Youth Employment Network consists of 10 ‘lead countries’ (Azerbaijan, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Mali, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal and Sri Lanka) that develop National Action Plans on youth employment and innovative new programs as examples for other governments. Mobilizing political will and government initiative is central for addressing the youth employment situation. The National Action Plan process holds governments accountable for their commitment to the Millennium Declaration and provides a framework to analyze their local situation and take stock of their programs to facilitate youth employment.

In August 2004, the International Labor Organization (ILO), as part of its commitment to the Youth Employment Network, released a new global report on youth unemployment. The report found that youth unemployment is at an all time high and half the world’s jobless are between 15 and 24 years of age.<sup>157</sup> This represents 88 million young people without work in 2003.

When releasing the new ILO report, the head of the ILO, Juan Somavia, said: “We are wasting an important part of the energy and talent of the most educated youth generation the world has ever had. Enlarging the chances of young people to find and keep decent work is absolutely critical to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals.”<sup>158</sup>

Options for young people to take action on youth employment need to ensure that they address three key areas:

1. Creating flexible employment opportunities for youth, especially those at-risk;
2. Working to secure decent working conditions for all young people (labor rights);
3. When creating employment and revising current employment policies, ensure that jobs are meaningful, contribute to creation of more just and sustainable communities and reinforce self esteem and self worth of young people.

Action on youth employment needs to be integrated as a central platform for achieving MDG 1 on poverty reduction. Youth employment poverty reduction strategies should especially focus on young women, indigenous populations, and rural youth as those most marginalized within the current economic system. Addressing the needs of young women and rural youth will also help to achieve MDGs 3 and address pressures and problems arising from mass rural to urban migration (as discussed in relation to MDG 7, Target 11). Many microfinance programs, such as those implemented by the Grameen Bank and the Commonwealth Youth Program, have targeted investment to young women with great success (see for example Case Study 37 on the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative). As such, the final report from the Millennium Project’s Task Force 1 on Poverty and Economic Development should include significant and achievable recommendations regarding youth employment as a central platform for realizing the MDGs.

YES and YEN have developed extensive networks and compiled long lists of best practices and provided both civil society and government frameworks.<sup>159</sup> These efforts now need to be scaled up and replicated in more countries and communities. This will require considerably more resources – both financial and technical – and

enhanced commitments and participation from all stakeholders. At all stages, youth must be seen as equal partners in developing and implementing initiatives – they must be given the spaces and opportunities to be part of the solution. The thousands of youth involved in initiatives such as the Youth Employment Summit and its Country Networks demonstrate that young people are keen and able to play important and pivotal roles in facilitating the social, economic and environmental development necessary, if and when appropriate support and opportunity is provided.

Since projects are so diverse and often local-specific, it is important to look for recommendations such as those outlined in the list of Effective Practices section on the YES website.<sup>160</sup> Facilitating the macroeconomic conditions and microeconomic policy and programs to address the youth employment crisis requires new ways to look at old problems, sufficient investment in effective education and training, financing and nurturing youth entrepreneurship, and creating jobs themselves that are sustainable for the environment and the youth involved.<sup>161</sup>

Projects must go beyond the non-governmental sector, and utilize partnerships and proactive policy.<sup>162</sup> As an example of how this might work, in St Vincent and the Grenadines, the Youth Empowerment Service uses work on projects that contribute to national building as part of a program to develop the skills and economic prospects of unemployed youth aged 17-30.<sup>163</sup> This government-established initiative has young people working in areas such as health, agriculture, environment, and education. Other good practices are connected to local sustainability issues, such as renewable energy.<sup>164</sup>

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### **Case Study 36: Youth Led Civil Society Mechanisms for Addressing Youth Employment**

The YES Campaign was launched by 1,600 delegates from 120 countries at the Alexandria Youth Employment Summit, in Egypt on September 11, 2002. The YES Framework for Action to increase youth employment is organized around six key principles for youth development, and which must be attained in order to improve young people's ability to earn sustainable livelihoods. The principles, or "6Es," are: employability, employment creation, equity, entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability, and empowerment. Furthermore, education in its myriad forms (i.e. formal schooling, informal skills attainment, etc) is recognized as being a fundamental pillar upon which all of the 6E's rest.<sup>165</sup>

In 60 countries, YES is bringing together diverse stakeholders through the YES Country Networks, which bring youth organizations together with governments, NGOs, the private sector, and academic and training institutions to develop programs and policies to provide youth with opportunities for creating sustainable livelihoods. YES Country Networks are youth-led, national-level coalitions focused on promoting youth employment in their countries. Their primary aim is to work with diverse stakeholders to develop programs and projects for youth employment in their countries. YES Networks include government officials, development agencies, business groups, and youth-serving civil society organizations. Activities of YES Country Networks include:

- Engaging diverse stakeholders in their countries to join the YES Country Networks and to promote youth employment through their programs and already existing activities/initiatives;
- Hosting national consultations on youth employment to reach out to a wider audience and incorporate new ideas;
- Designing National Action Plans for Youth Employment;
- Developing concrete youth employment projects and initiatives over the coming three years;
- Identifying effective youth employment programs and policies to share with the Global Alliance;
- Developing youth employment Country Reports outlining the state of youth employment;
- Preparing progress reports on each YES Network and activities undertaken since the Alexandria Summit.

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### **Incubating Youth Entrepreneurship**

**8.4 Option for Action:** *Use micro-finance and skills development initiatives to reduce barriers for youth entrepreneurship*

A viable strategy to eradicating poverty is through the provision of self-employment opportunities to transform job-seekers to job-makers or entrepreneurs. Yet, oftentimes, young people lack sufficient business management skills and start-up capital. Micro-financial institutions (MFIs), especially in rural areas and urban poor settlements, are then important in this process. One such example of a youth-led micro-credit agency catering to young people wanting to venture into small-scale businesses is The Nations Trust in South Africa.<sup>166</sup>

Youth Business International (YBI) is an entrepreneurship scheme based in the United Kingdom with branches in 17 countries worldwide. Their research proves the logic of youth-led business start-ups: they have discovered that one in five young people are intuitively equipped to start-up and run a small business. The Nations Trust, an affiliate of YBI, was established in 1995 as a youth empowerment trust to provide both finance and business support to young entrepreneurs. In ten years it has assisted over 1,000 South African youth by offering small business loans to those turned away by commercial banks to realize their entrepreneurial potential and create sustainable businesses. These micro-enterprises have created more than 1,500 stable jobs thus ensuring a brighter future for young South Africans. In 2010, The Nations Trust envisions to provide support in starting up 10,000 youth businesses as its contribution to poverty eradication and youth empowerment in South Africa. Micro-credit schemes have been shown to be very effective in assisting young people in creating sustainable livelihoods for themselves. The estimated success rate of businesses in some of these schemes is 80%, compared with 10% for normal businesses in developing Commonwealth countries.

While provision of micro-finance is one way to ‘kick-start’ youth-led enterprises and youth self-employment, an alternative approach, which also seeks to assist young people to develop financial management skills, is the use of matched-savings or savings incentive programs.<sup>167 168</sup> An advantage of such asset-based approaches is that young people learn to save their money and manage finances prior to commencing business, are supported in their savings by their community (often government and/or NGO programs), and may be more sustainable in the longer-term (i.e. generating funds for new enterprises from within communities).<sup>169</sup> Governments, communities and young people can consider both options when seeking to foster investment in youth enterprises. Where young people and communities do not have mechanisms for savings, micro-credit initiatives may be necessary to begin with, but may also benefit from incorporating elements of asset based approaches, including financial literacy training and promotion of savings alongside the operation of new businesses.

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**Case Study 37: Providing Credit for Young Entrepreneurs**

The Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative (CYCI)<sup>170</sup> is a small enterprise scheme for young people involving “micro-credit” (small-scale lending), training and enterprise development. The idea is to provide low-cost, easily accessible credit and training to underprivileged young people to bring economic self-sufficiency. CYCI provides these services using the following methods:

- low interest rates
- low training costs
- partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- A support network of young people to encourage saving and the paying back of loans
- ongoing training and monitoring of enterprises

By March 2000, the Asian project provided over 1,000 loans, with a recovery rate of over 85%. Over 800 enterprises had been set up, half of which were started by women. The success of the project can be attributed to the experience and expertise of the partner NGO of the project, the International Center for Career and Entrepreneurship Development, which ran training programmes and delivered loans to young people in urban, rural and tribal areas.

The success of this model proves that young people can be trusted with enterprise credit. The experience of CYCI has contributed to greater interest in micro-credit and sustainable livelihoods for young people. Agencies such as UNICEF, CIDA/IDRC and others have adopted CYP's approach. CYP is attempting to build on the Youth Credit Initiative with the Micro-Credit Management System, a project to help governments ensure the success of NGO-based enterprise schemes.

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### **8.5 Option for Action: *Strengthen youth entrepreneurship networks***

Youth networks are a forum for exchange of ideas about common problems and issues facing youth. They also help young people learn what others are doing elsewhere and to see in what ways such projects can be implemented elsewhere, share research and resources, as well as build political will towards creating more opportunities for youth entrepreneurs.

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#### **Case Study 38: Enterprising Youth Around the World**

*Blueprint*<sup>171</sup> is a workshop and case study project for and about enterprising young people around the world. It was created by two youth led organizations – the International Young Professionals Foundation and Youth 2 Youth – within the framework of the YES Country Network in Australia. The goals of the *Blueprint* Project are to:

- Recognize and promote enterprising young people in local communities
- Develop, catalyze and enhance enterprise skills and support networks amongst young people to assist them in turning ideas in to actions
- Produce case studies of successful young social, environmental and business entrepreneurs

Due to the successful implementation in Australia in 2003, *Blueprint* will run again in 2004 in Australia, and it will be modified for implementation in other countries throughout the Youth Employment Summit network.

**The Youth Employment Spark\*** (YES) project, a multi-country youth employment-entrepreneurship partnership lead by the Dutch National Youth Council, aims to raise awareness and increase understanding of international youth unemployment issues among young people in a positive and entertaining way. Five young entrepreneurs, aged 18 to 26, in Guyana, the Netherlands, the Philippines, South Africa and Turkey, after having been selected in a business plan competition, will simultaneously start their own businesses under the guidance of a youth organization and a mentor from the business community. Their experiences will be followed and presented to a youthful audience through an interactive website, national and international youth networks and media channels, and potentially a TV program or documentary. Through raising awareness and international cooperation, YES endeavors to spark new youth employment, entrepreneurship projects, partnerships, and funding opportunities.

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## Youth and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

**8.6 Option for Action:** *Youth must be empowered as learners, developers, contributors, entrepreneurs and decision-makers on the issue of Information and Communication Technologies. Widespread access in urban and rural areas is critical to facilitating this empowerment*

**8.7 Option for Action:** *Governments should play a facilitatory role in nurturing ICT-related youth enterprise through host-positive policy and investment in ICT infrastructure.*

If there were ever an area where young people were not just the leaders of the future, but also of the present, it is in the emerging information society. From web development to information access, youth are growing up with the latest technologies – and extending them, providing innovative solutions to global challenges. Recognizing this, in December 2003 more than 175 countries at the World Summit of Information Society (WSIS) declared in the outcome document of the Summit:<sup>172</sup>

We are committed to realizing our common vision of the Information Society for ourselves and for future generations. We recognize that young people are the future workforce and leading creators and earliest adopters of ICTs. We must focus especially on young people who have not yet been able to benefit fully from the opportunities provided by ICTs. We are also committed to ensuring that the development of ICT applications and operation of services respects the rights of children as well as their protection and well-being.

The paragraph is partly attributable to the presence of the WSIS Youth Caucus at the Summit itself and its preparatory meetings. The Youth Caucus was formed on the occasion of the 1<sup>st</sup> WSIS Preparatory Committee Meeting in July 2002, and continues to act as an umbrella for all young people and youth non-government organizations interested and/or involved in the WSIS process and ICT policy-formulation. The WSIS Youth Caucus aims to mainstream youth perspectives into civil society, the private sector and government inputs throughout the WSIS process. The Youth Caucus was one of the most organized and successful stakeholder groupings in the first phase of the WSIS process – participating and speaking at meetings, publishing a regular newsletter, running an award program, conducting significant national-level outreach, and can be attributed to the existence of the paragraph on youth in the WSIS declaration.

There are a number of areas where young people can use Information and Communication Technologies for development:

- Young people see great potential for improving development efforts and providing meaningful livelihood opportunities through the establishment of telecenters in both rural and urban areas. These telecenters provide livelihood opportunities for many young people.
- Young people use ICTs to seek information about education and livelihood opportunities available to them.
- Young people appreciate the increased consultations on information technology policy and priorities.
- Young people play a critical role in the development of locally appropriate content. Many work to repackage information between old and new media types and to interpret it for local, national, and international audiences.
- ICTs enable young people to explore and define their cultures within the context of rapid globalization.
- ICT training provides a context for skill development, socialization, and community building for out-of-school or otherwise marginalized youth.
- Local e-commerce may open more significant livelihood opportunities for young people than international e-commerce. Smaller scale e-commerce networks and ICT enabled small and medium enterprises provide young people with the opportunity to develop professionally without having to relocate large distances from their families and support networks.

Worldwide ICT-expansion has been possible due in part to the volunteer efforts and internship work of young professionals. Many have postponed or foregone potentially lucrative private sector jobs to train others in ICT

use. These opportunities have further strengthened the skills of the young people as well as their commitment to socially-conscious uses of ICTs.

However, youth are a large untapped resource for creating digital opportunities. Many youth are already using technology for innovative social causes, often expanding access to information beyond those with personal access to technology. Yet, youth actions to bridge the digital divide often suffer from critical deficiencies, such as:

- Lack of mainstream support: youth-led ICT programs are rarely afforded the funding or recognition required to implement or replicate in a substantial or sustained manner.
- Lack of participation in decision-making: youth are rarely involved in national, regional and international ICT policy development, meaning youth lack the framework, support and legitimacy required for sustained action, and policy implementation lacks buy-in from this key grassroots constituency.
- Lack of communication: youth effort on ICTs is fragmented, often uninformed by others practice, unconnected to a bigger picture, unable to leverage resources, and find moral and inspirational support.
- Lack of access: many youth in rural areas in developing countries cannot be empowered in ICT as the infrastructure and facilities are largely limited to urban areas.

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**8.8 Option for Action:** *Support and resource new coalitions and partnerships around ICTs*

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**Case Study 39: The Global Knowledge Partnership**<sup>173</sup>

The Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) has played a pivotal role in this movement to engage young people in efforts around digital inclusion. For GK II in Malaysia in 2000, young people's issues were considered a major cross-cutting theme. Prior to that conference, the GKP convened a Youth Advisory Council to facilitate the "Youth: Building Knowledge Societies" (YBKS) e-conference. This event sought to determine youth priorities for action on ICTs for development as a critical input to the GKP Action Plan. More than 350 young people from 57 countries came together to explore how youth are using ICTs to produce, disseminate and use knowledge for sustainable development. At GK II itself, a major Youth Forum was held concurrently with the Global Knowledge Forum with more than 30 young ICT visionaries in attendance from around the world. In 2001, the GKP again played a key role facilitating youth involvement in international ICT policy, reconvening the Youth Advisory Council online to update and repurpose the inputs of YBKS into formal input to the G8 DOTforce.

GKP's advocacy with and for young people has been supported by active participation from its members, many of who have strong youth-related programs. First among these has been the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), which played a coordinating role for both YBKS and the DOTforce update. In 2002, the GKP invited IISD to develop a more comprehensive and 'action oriented' Youth Strategy. IISD in turn, invited the young coordinators of TakingITGlobal (an international youth-led organization with existing GKP connections) to co-author the strategy that became known as Youth Creating Digital Opportunities.

The Youth Creating Digital Opportunities (YCDO) Coalition aimed to provide a collaborative roadmap to coordinate efforts around Youth and ICTS for Development, closing gaps and reducing duplication of effort, with four key goals:<sup>174</sup>

- To develop youth input to & influence policies at national and international levels related to the Information Society.
- To building capacity for action and develop appropriate funding mechanisms to support youth creating digital opportunities.
- To showcase and celebrate projects run by young people that harness information and communications technologies for development.
- To provide relevant and vibrant learning and sharing experiences for youth and other stakeholders on areas of specific concern for youth in the information society.

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## ICTs Offer Holistic Solutions to Development Challenges

**8.9 Option For Action:** *See community cyber cafés and telecenters as means to address multiple development needs, such as business training, and opportunities for education in reproductive and sexual health*

As is the case with many development projects, addressing one community need may often end up solving another. ICTs provide new opportunities for job creation,<sup>175</sup> and nurture new forms of social interaction, youth in civil society and information exchange. As Case Study 40 below shows, a cyber café can serve as a meeting place, an opportunity for improving community literacy, and a management and training opportunity for those involved in its creation.

ICTs can offer new opportunities for the physically and socially marginalized. For example of Digital Divide Data, a Cambodian-based US company whose operations are entirely based on ICTs, provides data entry services to companies and institutions in the US and Cambodia. Inputs received as digital images are processed according to client specifications and sent back by DDD's staff - all of whom are under 25 and are orphans, physically disabled or trafficked women.<sup>176</sup>

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### **Case Study 40: ICTs in Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS prevention**

Advocates for Youth has been partnering with NGOs in Central America and sub-Saharan Africa on a cyber café initiative for youth as a strategy for improving reproductive and sexual health, including HIV/AIDS prevention. In Central America, the cyber cafés have been targeting Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) youth, while in sub-Saharan Africa, the focus has been on heterosexual youth. These NGOs—Entre Amigos in El Salvador, Comunidad Gay San Pedrana in Honduras, OASIS in Guatemala, Township AIDS Project in South Africa, the Youth Action Rangers of Nigeria (YARN) and the Youth Health Organization (YOHO) in Botswana—have invested in the Internet as a means of improving access to sexual health information for youth by establishing cyber-cafes in their organizations. Key activities and services carried out by the NGOs through the cyber cafés include development and provision of virtual and real information on sexual health and HIV prevention and workshops to build computer literacy focusing on topics such as how to use Word Processor and Spreadsheet software, how to navigate the Internet and how to create a Web site.

Key aspects of the cyber-café include youth involvement in the management, operation, monitoring and evaluation of the program. For example, a young person serves as the coordinator of the cyber cafés, with support from an adult supervisor. The cyber café also functions as a safe space for youth to gather and exchange information.

Although the goal of the initiative was to provide a safe space for youth to access accurate sexual and reproductive health information via the Internet, young people visiting the cyber café have also gained other valuable skills such as how to use a computer. Some participating youth have obtained employment or been promoted in their jobs and still others, who have not yet finished school, have expressed being more "employable" since acquiring the computer literacy skills developed through accessing the cyber-café.

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## Conclusion

Lack of access to ICTs, fair trade conditions and meaningful and productive work all curtail young people's abilities to contribute to achieving the MDGs. This can be resolved by empowering young people with the means to truly engage in developing mechanisms to implement the MDGs at national and international levels

and by offering tools for concrete and meaningful actions that will benefit generations to come. Job creation should focus on industries and work that delivers progress towards the MDGs and sustainable development – 88 million unemployed youth are an opportunity towards a sustainable future, and they need to be seen as such. The UN and member countries must see the potential and capacity for youth in the developed and developing worlds alike to work towards and bring down the walls of apathy and inaction by creating global partnerships for development. The writing of this report alone is one further example of how young people, representing 5 continents, can come together, collaborate and work towards a common goal to achieve the MDGs.