

Side Events

Partnership for Youth and Adolescents Health for Economic Empowerment

Title: Result Focused Development Cooperation on Youth and Adolescents Health Advocacy and Empowerment to Achieve Agenda 2030

Date: Wednesday, 30th November, 2016, KICC, Peacock Tent, 8 AM-9AM

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Objective:

1. To show how community informatics model can be used to experiences, knowledge and emerging issues around development cooperation with focus on result in youth and adolescents health for economic empowerment
2. To show how partnerships in youth and adolescents health provide a viable means of SDGs implementation
3. To explore various challenges and solutions in development cooperation for result oriented youth and adolescents health

Participants:

Panellists

- 1) Ms Nyokabi Njuguna- CEO and Founder Impacting Youth Trust.
- 2) Mrs Maljken Maria Gilmart, CEO Eir Soccer, USA and Denmark.
- 3) Ms Angeline Nguku, Country Coordinator, White Ribbon Alliance, Kenya.
- 4) Dr. Jantine Jacobi UNAIDS Country Director, Kenya.
- 5) Dr. Ali Adan Ali, Director Research, Innovation and Outreach, Umma University.

Moderator: Michael Asudi, Country Coordinator and international Affairs Secretary Organization of African Youth

Key issues discussed:

Ms Nyokabi Njuguna- CEO and Founder Impacting Youth Trust

Young people affected or infected by diseases such as H.I.V/A.I.D.S, cancer, T.B and other communicable diseases have been robbed their quality of life especially if they come from economically challenging backgrounds. Their prospects to fully contribute to their countries' economies have been greatly affected because their socio-economic empowerment status has been diminished by medical bills and other expenses to ensure their survival.

Highlighting the current challenges that are affecting the impact of the results in the health advocacy for the youth and adolescent space can help us change the narrative of how things are done especially now that we have the S.D.Gs where goal number 3, 5, 8 and 17 are directly connected to these groups. For a result focused development co-operation, let us;

- i. Engage these two groups as equals without leaving any of them behind.
- ii. Formally disaggregate these groups further for them to fully benefit from interventions that can resolve each group's specific needs. Let the adolescents be recognized as a standalone group that doesn't have to be lumped together with the 18-35 age groups and vice versa so that each group can receive the attention it deserves.
- iii. Involve all beneficiaries even those who are often seen as secondary beneficiaries.
- iv. Create internal partnerships within our own individual groups in the youth and adolescents health space.
- v. Promote transparency and accountability- Hold the government responsible for the provision of quality health care, the dissemination of health related information to the youth and adolescents and educating the public on policies and projects that target these age groups.
- vi. Effective communication and information sharing- Establish working relationships with the media

Dr. Ali Adan Ali, Director Research, Innovation and Outreach, Umma University

Dr. Ali umma brought out the question of how many youths are able to access quality health care. He was keen to highlight some the contributing factors:

- i. Most youths live in informal settlements and cannot achieve the standards of living i.e. quality food, water and shelter.
- ii. Many youths do not get parental care and guidance that instill positive behavior.
- iii. Lack of awareness of the emerging health care services.
- iv. Lack of access to preventive health care systems and services.

The key points from the discussion was to empower youths to be aware of their health as well as the need for all key stakeholders in health to form stronger partnerships to increase youth and women participation in all public processes that is about them. To also challenge government policies on the education system so it may be a tool of empowerment that equips them with knowledge and ability to be fit for the employment opportunities.

Dr.Jantine Jacobi UNAIDS Country Director, Kenya

Dr.Jantine Jacobi was able to raise concerns of a report they had released on HIV/AIDS that in sub Saharan Africa everyday nearly 100 young people get infected and a fifth of all new infections include women from ages 15-24. There many people living today who are not aware of their status due to: poverty, gender inequality and stigmatization. The key point from this discussion was to increase engagement with the young people through their participation, creation and strengthening of partnership using their creativity to push for development.

Ms Angeline Nguku, Country Coordinator, White Ribbon Alliance

Ms Angeline Nguku was able to kick start her presentation by asking, ‘who are the youth? Who shapes their agenda when it comes to sexual reproductive health rights issues?’ The young people should take up their position to voice their concern and be actively involved in formulation of policies seeking to address their needs.

Mrs Maljken Maria Gilmart, CEO EIR SOCCER

Mrs Maljken shared her experience in mobilization of young women in sporting activities and encouraged many other players to engage the young persons in sports as a way of rooting for what they believe in. **The Global Goals World Cup** merges global citizenship with the game of soccer to create the first ever World Cup -for the world we want! In this alternative amateur women’s world cup, teams represent the UN Global Goal they are most passionate about. Games are played by a new set of rules that awards points for commitment to both *scoring* goals as well as *reaching* the Global Goals.

Interactive Session: Call for Action.

Specific contributions from the floor;

- **Anne Mawathe of Citizen TV**, who has covered a lot of news and documentary pieces on youth and SRHR called on the youth to be effective in designing their communication strategies to reach the grassroots. While there are efforts to empower the youth, in many instances, the role of media is never given priority. Partnerships in communication for development can help in information sharing, empowerment through modern and traditional communication tools. Communication based partnerships aligned to community informatics can keep the conversations going on health issues inform, engage and follow up.
- **Sheen from the Center of Adolescents Studies**, speaking on behalf of the youth called for creation of necessary spaces that empower the youth and adolescents and view them as partners in effective development. To make a deliberate move to involve the youths to be part of decision making processes.

Other contributions from the floor

- Ownership and commitment by the young people to provide solutions to their own problems for desired outcome.
- Provision of information that can be well understood by the young people.
- Unify solid partnerships numbers do count.

Main conclusions and next steps:

In conclusion the participants of the side event believe that sector partnerships offer the best strategies for ensuring focus on policy/project results. Through sector partnerships, it is possible to win the goodwill of various stakeholders such as the policy and lawmakers, and implementers, the state and non-state actors and the private sectors at different levels. This aspect of development is based on the concept of community informatics that emphasizes the recognition of interconnectedness in the society and the way such nodes can ensure solidarity in pursuit of a shared result. The participants agreed to continue with the partnership for effective development by;

- I. Revitalizing a partnership to promote result focused adolescent and youth alliance to influence key events and processes such as 2017 AU Summit, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Commission on Population and Development (CPD), UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF), Global Goals World Cup, Global Health Strategy, International Youth Week, World AIDs Day, FIFA under 17 World Cup among others
- II. Partner with the media organizations and use new and traditional media, sports, music among others engage the grassroots and marginalized adolescents and youth in empowerment initiatives that link health to socio-economic issues and day to day life
- III. Engage youth and adolescents as partners in health related initiative, with focus on their diversity, differences, age groups and needs.

Partners

