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The SID-W Youth in Development Workgroup is a group of individuals actively supporting and engaging youth around the world in development issues. With events ranging from using sport as a platform for development to improving the workforce and entrepreneurship opportunities and preventing youth violence, this workgroup aims to inform on the issues and ideas that will elevate today’s young people for a better tomorrow.
Dear Members of the Youth in Development Workgroup,

We are happy to report that we had another productive year, with programming that was entirely virtual! As we reflect on the past year, the Workgroup produced one great event, Elevating Youth Voices to Advance Family Planning. We are currently working on a new and exciting slate of events for FY 2022, so stay tuned for more information!

We would like to thank outgoing Co-Chair Matthew Breman, who put on many fantastic events during their tenure. We wish them well in their future endeavors! We would also like to welcome new Co-Chair Tsega Belachew who joins us this year.

After 5 years with our team, Paul Sherman, our Director of Programs, will be stepping down from his role to pursue graduate studies. Paul is still involved with SID-Washington as a Consultant. Thank you, Paul, for your effort and commitment to the Workgroups and their programming!

Stepping into Paul’s role, we would like to welcome Malavika Randive as our new Program Coordinator. Malavika will be working closely with our Co-Chairs in planning events for the Workgroup.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the Workgroups. We hope to see you at future SID-Washington events! If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to send an email to events@sidw.org.

Best regards,

Katherine Raphaelson

Malavika Randive
Matthew Breman
Global Director, YEO 2030 Initiative
Making Cents International

Matthew has more than 25 years of multi-sector program management experience—the last 10+ years in the youth economic opportunities space, while working for global government, non-profit, and private sector organizations. Matthew is passionate about the power of youth and sport to drive social change. He currently serves as Global Director of the YEO 2030 Initiative at Making Cents International. Past leadership positions include Regional Director for Africa & the Middle East at IYF; Director for Africa programs at Chemonics International; Director of Civic Engagement at Citizen Schools; Peace Corps Country Director in Cape Verde (also an RPCV from Guinea-Bissau); and Catholic Relief Services Country Representative in Angola. Matthew holds a BA with Honors in American Studies from Brandeis University and an MA in International Relations with concentrations in International Economics and Social Change and Development from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He also speaks French, Portuguese, and Cape Verdean/Guinean Creole; is proficient in Spanish; and has worked in more than 25 countries.

Dr. Christy Olenik
Vice President, Technical Services, Making Cents International

In her 25-year career, Christy has designed, implemented, and evaluated holistic youth programs for multiple donors, local governments, and private foundations in the US and internationally. As Vice President, Technical Services, she is responsible for technical leadership, service delivery, business development, and strategy around positive youth development programming. Christy also serves as Making Cents’ Project Director for the USAID-funded YouthPower: Evidence and Evaluation IDIQ. She is passionate about providing opportunities for youth success and for building the capacity of the systems around them.
**Wednesday, October 21, 2020**  
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM ET | Online via Zoom  
Young Women Leaders: Achieving Economic Empowerment through Agriculture

**Wednesday, May 5, 2021**  
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM ET | Online via Zoom  
Elevating Youth Voices to Advance Family Planning
Young Women Leaders: Achieving Economic Empowerment Through Agriculture

Event Description: The commercial agriculture sector has not always created formal employment opportunities for women, least of all young women. Yet for millions of young women around the world, particularly those living in rural communities, agriculture remains an important livelihood option. In this joint workgroup event, we explored the challenges facing young women in agriculture and learned about the economic pathways they are forging in the sector, from production to processing to technical services and organizational leadership. We heard from a panel of young women who are forging careers in agriculture and considered the ways in which international agricultural investments can support and shape their futures.

Key Takeaways:

1) Careers in Agriculture

Maria Ndagire (Fastmere) started by discussing how her interest in agriculture came from her upbringing. Early in her life, being involved in a new agricultural technology fueled her passion for the field. With a growing interest, she pursued a degree in agriculture and then later developed her company to create opportunities for other women like her as well as maximize her opportunities. She pointed out that young African women face extremely high barriers of entry into the field. While she draws happiness from knowing that women are challenging and overcoming these challenges, she knows the journey can be quite difficult.

Sandra Namulondo Tumwebaze (Opportunity Bank Uganda) spoke next about her experience being raised by a single mother who was a farmer that faced several difficulties while growing up. While she initially did not consider pursuing agriculture as a career – having gone to Uganda University to study finance and accounting – her skills in marketing drew her back. When she came to work at Opportunity Bank, she decided to work towards providing financial solutions to people working in agriculture. In her current role, she is responsible for reaching out to farmers and offer financial support, as 80 percent of her current portfolio comprises of agricultural activities.

Unlike her fellow panelists, Awa Sanou (Mastercard) grew up in the city, with her interest in agriculture coming from going to the farms in her village in the summer.

She further discusses her experience of securing a scholarship to work in India and realizing that to create impact one needs to develop technical skills. This realization and her interest in agriculture led her to pursue her postgraduate studies in Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics from Michigan State University, where she learned the skills needed for her to help others begin their careers.

2) Challenges for Women in Agriculture

Sanou explained how math requirements can be a very high barrier for people, as they often lack exposure to such advanced concepts and therefore face great challenges when pursuing a degree in agriculture. While she acknowledged that academic rigor is important, more must be done to support students who have lacked that exposure in their schooling. Moreover, she highlighted the importance of having a diverse faculty who can better understand and engage with their students struggles, potentially through mentorship opportunities.

According to Namulondo Tumwebaze, rural women lack access to capital and markets, which creates another hurdle in setting up successful enterprises. Institutions – including ones by Opportunity Bank Uganda – are developing solutions with technology helping to ensure greater accessibility. However, women in agriculture still face great challenges.

Ndagire described how patriarchal norms continue to hinder and prevent women from gaining support to grow their businesses.
To resolve this, actors in the space need to ensure that young women have access to the correct information. Providing internet access would go a long way in finding and creating more opportunities to access to financial resources.

2) Future Success of African Women in Agriculture

Ndagire outlined a few key points that will positively affect the future success for women in agriculture:

1. Women need mentors, as this provides access to more resources and aides in career development.
2. There is a need for more funding to encourage business development.
3. Information should be more accessible.
4. Establishing infrastructure helps rural women in particular.

5. There needs to be a change in social perception. Individuals who influence the lives of these rural women, particularly the men, provide women the space to develop their skills and build their careers.

Namulondo Tumwebaze spoke from a different perspective, highlighting how women can support themselves through agriculture and need to be reminded of that fact. Further, she discussed how agriculture is growing at a rapid pace, so women must be involved in this growth to ensure they are not left behind.

Sanou highlighted how agriculture sector must increase its profitability and provide technical skills to attract young women. Both of these factors can be increase participation and success of young women in the industry.
Elevating Youth Voices to Advance Family Planning

Moderator: Shaylyn Stanley, Next Generation Engagement Officer, Pathfinder International

Speakers: Sabah Hussein, Founding Member and Development Chair, Pathfinder's Acacia Circle
Khadija Moore, Co-founder/Director, Lévé Domnik (Dominica)
Dr. Elizabeth Rowley, Global Advisor, Gender Programs & Research, PATH
Damilola Samuel, Founder/CEO, GreenPad Concepts (Nigeria)

Event Description: Next Gen, or Gen Z and Millennials, constitute the next generation of CEOs, government officials, philanthropists, and changemakers. It is important to provide them with platforms to share their passions, concerns, and voices for change. Access to family planning services is a particular challenge for today’s young people. According to Guttmacher, of the 32 million adolescent women between ages 15-19 who want to avoid a pregnancy, 43% have an unmet need for modern contraception. This session discussed how youth advocacy can influence the global ecosystem of healthcare actors – and ultimately governments, to approve free provision of sexual and reproductive health services. Panelists shared their personal journeys along with lessons learned for global application across different contexts.

Key Takeaways:

1) Data reflect the need to account for youth needs in family planning among a multitude of backgrounds and characteristics

Dr. Elizabeth Rowley (PATH) set the stage for the event by describing the challenges to advancing family planning. During her presentation, Dr. Rowley acknowledged that in family planning there are many factors that can affect the needs of youth such as peer influence, unequal gender power relations, poverty, early marriage, cost of contraceptives, absence of affordable or free education, alcohol use, educational status, and low self-esteem. Dr. Rowley shared that among women wanting to avoid a pregnancy, there is an unmet need for modern contraception in 43 percent of women aged 15-19 compared to the 24 percent for women aged 20-49. According to Dr. Rowley, the lack of these rights has long term consequences for both individuals and communities.

2) Experiences with Pathfinder to improve access to health services and education for Pakistani Americans

Sabah Hussein (Pathfinder) discussed her personal experiences as a first generation Pakistani American. Husain’s experiences with health services and education inspired her to work to eliminate the discrepancies that she has seen in addressing the lack of conversations and exposure to information regarding sexual health. Husain stated that she has found that there is an emphasis in having the right vernacular to make people comfortable during conversations involving sexual health when working in community settings. Additionally, Husain shared that most effective breakthroughs occurred during conversations held by individuals with whom the community can identify. This personal connection to the community can make the difference in being able to break down any barrier and share vital information.

3) Improving access to sexual health information, products, and services in Dominica

Khadijah Moore (Lévé Domnik) discussed the challenges of providing services to women and adolescents in Dominica due to the presence of the predominately Catholic community. She cites the taboos of sex and sexuality as well as opposition from key players (i.e., schools, parents, and the government) as major challenges to Lévé Domnik’s work. To educate and spread awareness to as many people as possible, Lévé Domnik would partner with International Planned Parenthoodclubs, Women Deliver, and other stakeholders and go into schools to teach comprehensive sexuality education in an age-appropriate manner. Moore cited meaningful youth engagement as a must and that giving young people a voice can provide access to tools to better help themselves.
4) GreenPad Concepts: A way to address the lack of access to sanitary products in Nigeria

Damilola Samuel (GreenPad Concepts) recounted his journey in creating GreenPad Concepts as a result of noticing the continued absences of female students monthly, leading to high school dropout rates. Samuel learned that many students were missing 3 to 5 days of classes every month due to their menstrual cycles and lack of access to sanitary products. To address this issue, Samuel partnered with teachers, community leaders, parishes, and women-led organizations to provide proper education on health and hygienic practices. After spending some time fundraising locally to buy sanitary products, Samuel founded GreenPad Concepts to produce sanitary products from plant and banana fibers.
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FY 2021 Workgroup Co-Chairs

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Making Cents International

Dr. Christy Olenik - Vice President, Technical Services, Making Cents International

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Paul A. Sherman - Director of Programs
Screenshots from various SID-W events
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