Society for International Development
Washington Chapter

FY 2019

ANNUAL REPORT

Youth in Development Workgroup

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YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT WORKGROUP

The SID-Washington (SID-W) Youth in Development Workgroup is a group of individuals actively working on engaging and bettering youth around the world. With events ranging from approaches to enforcing child labor laws, to improving the workforce, to measuring gaming's impact on youth skill development, this workgroup aims to inform on the issues and ideas that will improve tomorrow's leaders.

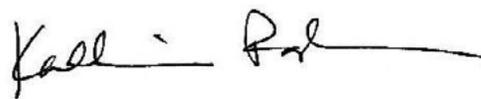## Dear Members of the Youth in Development Workgroup,

We are happy to report that we had another exciting year! As we reflect on last year, the workgroup produced several great events, ranging from [Youth, Policy, and Inclusion](#) to [Reflections on USAID Youth in Development Policy](#). We are currently working on events for FY2020, so stayed tuned for more information!

This workgroup focuses on youth-related development issues and policies that will improve tomorrow's leaders.

Lastly, we would like to thank the former Co-Chair Kristin Brady. She helped SID-W put on many fantastic events during her tenure. We wish her the best in her future endeavors!

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, please feel free to send an email to events@sidw.org.

Best regards,

Katherine Raphaelson

Paul A. Sherman

FY 2019 WORKGROUP CO-CHAIRS

Kristin Brady

Director, Youth Department, FHI 360

For more than twenty-five years, Kristin Brady has specialized in international development as a youth and education expert, project manager and policy maker. She serves as Project Director for YouthPower Action and as Director of FHI 360's Youth and Learning Practice. She led the development of USAID's positive youth development curriculum and oversees a wide range of activities relating to youth development. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the SID Working Group on Youth and was Co-Chair of the Advocacy working group of the Alliance for International Youth Development. She has worked in Latin America and Africa, speaks Spanish and Portuguese and published studies on public private partnerships in Latin America. Earlier in her career, she served as senior staff on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. She has a Master's Degree in International Affairs from Columbia University.

Matthew Breman

Regional Director, Africa, International Youth Foundation

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 Africa Regional Director at IYF, where he serves as a member of IYF's Senior Management Team and provides technical and operational oversight of a $30M program portfolio. Past leadership positions include 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.

Monday, July 9, 2018
3:30PM - 5:00PM | SID-Washington

Youth, Policy and Inclusion

Tuesday, April 23, 2019
10:00AM - 11:30PM | SID-Washington

Reflections on USAID Youth in Development Policy

Youth, Policy and Inclusion

Speakers: **Karen Scriven**, Senior Director, Strategic Programs, Mercy Corps
Marc Sommers, International Consultant, Author, "The Outcast Majority: War, Development and Youth in Africa"
Maryanne Yerkes, Senior Civil Society and Youth Advisor, USAID

Summary: War and violence have impacted youth across Africa and has drawn the attention of policy makers and development practitioners. Moreover, there has been a robust call for greater involvement and inclusion of youth in development programs. In, *The Outcast Majority: War, Development, and Youth in Africa*, Dr. Marc Sommers makes a call to rebalance policy and program work as part of a larger inclusion framework to more effectively reach marginalized youth. This SID-W workshop was further informed on this topic from Maryanne Yerkes, USAID and Karen Scriven, Mercy Corps, in relation to Marc Sommers' queries about the impact of policy on the lives of youth and how to create more effective and inclusive youth development policies.

Key Takeaways

1) The challenge: Youth feel alienated.
The central irony of **Marc Sommer**'s book is that youth are demographically dominant, yet most see themselves as members of an outcast minority. Youth feel excluded from society, and this exclusion fuels class inequality, emasculation, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, prostitution, urban migration and more. Marc also highlighted that warlords and militia use exclusion to exploit young people by recognizing talents that the society does not see, resulting in youth feeling more detached from their community. Maryanne Yerkes agreed that this exclusion produces negative outcomes, as traumatic events that occur during adolescence can have life-long consequences.

2) The current strategies of youth in development will never work when the focus is on quanitative data.
Mr. Sommers argued that he wrote his book, The Outcast Majority: War, Development, and Youth in Africa, because he was frustrated with current development strategies that rely on and have an overwhelming focus on quantitative data. Stressing what donors can tangibly count to report to their board or congress, such as trainings or vaccinations, is damaging and harmful. This practice creates a rift between the few elite youths and the majority of youth and the population. Thus, this practice demonstrates favoritism for the fortunate few and ultimately expands inequality.

3) Moving Forward: Start with an assessment of excluded youth lives.
Mr. Sommers raised questions around how the development community can advance and advocate for policies that reverse youth exclusion through existing research and case studies. **Karen Scriven (Mercy Corps)** supported this argument by stating that Mercy Corps' Peace Program in Jordan used existing research on what motivated youth to join extremist groups. **Maryanne Yerkes (USAID)** emphasized USAID's shift in youth programming and how said programming addresses different layers, such as age, family, peers, governmental systems, etc.

4) Recognize youth participation and invest in assets and resilience.
Ms. Yerkes emphasized that when working with excluded youth, organizations must think about what skill sets they have and involve mentors, family, and the wider community. Karen Scriven added that Mercy Corps utilized these strategies when working on the Peace Pro program in Jordan, which targeted at risk youth joining extremist groups in urban areas. In Jordan they used a holistic approach that focused on the individual, the family, and the community. They utilized situational assessments via discussions with families and local organizations, rather than simply focusing on violence and extremism.

Reflections on USAID Youth in Development Policy

Moderator:	**Nicole Goldin**, Director, Economic Participation, FHI360
Speakers:	**Nada Petrovic**, Policy Analyst, USAID **Maryanne Yerkes**, Civil Society and Media Division Chief, Center for Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance, USAID

Summary: USAID launched its first ever Youth in Development policy in 2012. Recently, USAID's Office of Policy carried out an assessment of the policy to identify progress, challenges, and lessons learned during the first five years of policy implementation and to recommend actions to improve implementation. The event included a brief presentation of the assessment findings by the Office of Policy, reflections on the context by the USAID Youth Coordinator, and discussions on the implications of the assessment.

Key Takeaways

1) The Importance of Youth Particpation in Policy Design is As Emerging as in Program Implementation
Nada Petrovic (USAID) opened the panel discussion by sharing information regarding the results of USAID's policy assessment after its first five years of implementation. The key finding of the assessment showed that youth development policy successfully leveraged the quality and tools of existing policies. The assessment also found data segregation that excluded youth from the policy framework and decision-making processes. Additionally, Ms. Petrovic agreed with **Nicole Goldin's (FHI360)** statement that conducting the assessment and analyzing the results have provided a few key observations: (a) collect both qualitative and quantitative data (b) acknowledge the importance of establishing a specific youth development agenda and policy framework, and (c) take into account youth interests in policy planning.

2) Mainstreaming Youth in Sectoral and Regional Priorities Builds Inclusive Development for All.
Maryanne Yerkes (USAID) shared her experience working with youth in several countries. Her work showed that global youth has a wide range of interests in terms of sector and region. For example, youth engagement in South American countries is focused more on the workforce, democracy, right, and governance (DRG), counter violent extremism (CVE), international migration, and youth crime. At the same time, they would unlikely be interested in the environment, public health, and agriculture sectors. Meanwhile in Africa, the youth interest lies in education and livelihood – the community and local stakeholders have worked intensively to create local-based innovation and developed community-friendly technology advancement. As for young people in European countries, they have developed several initiatives, yet they find it challenging to integrate the innovation at the regional level. Therefore, sharing these observations with stakeholders would help them to acknowledge the needs of the youth. It would also allow young people to promote their agendas and engage with the stakeholders.

3) Establishing Inter-Generational Dialogue and Providing Opportunities for Youth in the Decision-Making Process
Ms. Yerkes highlighted how the result of the assessment could provide guidance in designing and implementing the youth engagement agenda with community and partner organizations. The experiences and data in the field showed that youth have overlooked limited access to political organizations. The current policy has prevented young people from expanding their work to create an inclusive society. Ms. Yerkes explained that an inter-generational dialogue plays a role in navigating this issue.

Ms. Yerkes and Ms. Petrovic also said that youth development encountered an inter-generation challenge in terms of leadership. She would encourage policy implementors to appoint more youth in decision-making positions. Delegation and representation are key factors in achieving a comprehensive policy framework. Therefore, the stakeholders and implementing partners should equip the youth communities with relevant leadership capacity through developing organizational and technical capacity training. Petrovic added that program and policy design should build more effective partnerships with youth in diverse working groups and international organizations.

In addition, Ms. Goldin recommended that youth development policy should recognize that youth play multiple roles at the community level. Stakeholders should be able to classify youth as young adult representation so that they can have a safe space for

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Acknowledgement

We would like to thank Program Associates Maame Esi Eghan and Lauren Faloni for their hard work to create this report.

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