FY 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Youth in Development Workgroup
# Table of Contents

1. Table of Contents  
2. Introduction  
3. Letter from SID-Washington  
4. FY 2020 Workgroup Co-Chairs  
5. Events Calendar  
6. Event Summaries  
11. Contact Us
YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT WORKGROUP

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,

Our Fiscal Year 2020 was an unusual for us, as it was for so many, ending during a global pandemic. Despite this hurdle, the Workgroup still produced three great events, including Changing the Game: Achieving the SDGs through Sport for Development and Youth Crime and Violence Prevention: Strategies that Work?

Now that we have mastered the art of virtual programming, we look forward to offering more events accessible to a wider audience and providing an even more dynamic community for interaction. We hope to see you at some of our upcoming events. You can see all of our programs on our website – and please check back often as we add new ones regularly.

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

Best regards,

Katherine Raphaelson

Paul A. Sherman
Matthew Breman
Regional Director,
Africa and Middle East,
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 US-AID-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.
EVENTS CALENDAR

**Tuesday, July 9, 2019**
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM ET | SID-Washington

Youth in Development Workgroup Planning Meeting

**Wednesday, October 23, 2019**
10:00 AM - 11:30 PM ET | SID-Washington

Changing the Game: Achieving the SDGs through Sport for Development

**Thursday, April 16, 2020**
10:00 AM - 11:30 PM ET | Online via Zoom

Youth Crime and Violence Prevention: Strategies that Work?
Youth in Development Workgroup Planning Meeting

Workgroup Co-Chairs: Dr. Christy Olenik, Vice President, Technical Services, Making Cents International Matthew Breman, Regional Director, Africa and Middle East, International Youth Foundation

Event Description: The Youth in Development Workgroup met on Tuesday, July 9th at 3:30 PM to plan events for the group in the next year. In recent months, the group organized events on topics such as Reflections on USAID Youth in Development Policy and Youth, Policy, and Inclusion.

Key Takeaways:

Meeting Agenda

I.   Introductions
II.  Networking
III. Proposed Topics for Events
IV.  Working Group Questions and Final Discussion
V.   Next Steps

Discussion:

I.   Introductions
II.  Networking
   » Pair-share exercise
III. Proposed topics for events
   • Top responses from the survey report
      » Designing integrated or cross-sectoral youth programming
      » Measurement of youth outcomes
      » Scale and sustainability of youth programming
      » Soft skills development and measurement
      » Youth economic opportunities and youth inclusive market systems
      » Youth involvement in peacebuilding and security
   • Second Tier
      » Capacity strengthening for youth led organizations
      » Gender and youth development
      » Reproductive health Issues
      » Sports for youth development
      » Youth mapping and youth-led research
      » Youth participation in policy-making
   • Audience-suggested topics
      » Culture - arts, music, and technology platforms for youth communities/cross-cultural engagement
      » Family dynamics and youth roles in the household
      » Involvement of the private sector
      » Youth development and religion/spirituality
      » Youth and agriculture

• Voting on Event Ideas
  » The following events received the highest number of votes:
  » Involvement of the private sector
  » Sports for development
  » Youth economic opportunities and youth-inclusive market systems
  » Youth development in religion/spirituality
  » Youth involvement in peace and security

IV. Working Group Questions and Final Discussion

• Attendees discussed the following questions for the event ideas that received the highest number of votes:
  » What is the most interesting part of this topic to you?
  » What are the three things that would be most important for speakers to discuss?
  » Do you know any potential speakers for this topic? Who would you like to hear from?

V. Next Steps

• Discussing what will make events worthwhile and inclusive
  » Ensuring there is more youth present at each SID-Washington event either as a speaker or moderator
  » Youth representatives in the audience
  » Practical application of future discussions by looking at case studies during future events
  » Increase awareness of topics being discussed at future events by utilizing social media to pose questions to a larger audience.

• Based on the discussion, the Co-Chairs will compile the feedback from the meeting and coordinate with SID-Washington Staff to roll out exciting events over the course of the next year.
Changing the Game: Achieving the SDGs through Sport for Development

Moderator: Seren Fryatt, Executive Director, Life and Change Experienced thru Sports (L.A.C.E.S.)

Speakers: Adam Burgess, Corporate & Foundation Partnerships Manager, Coaches Across Continents
              Gunnar Hagstrom, Sr. Development Manager, Laureus Sport for Good Foundation
              Meghan Hussey, Sr. Manager of Global Youth Engagement, Special Olympics
              Warshan Hussin, Youth Advocate/Coach, Soccer Without Borders

**Event Description:** The Sport for Development (S4D) field has transformed over the past 20 years. What once was a small group of ‘Sport+’ organizations focused on sport with less emphasis on social issues has evolved into a movement of like-minded ‘+Sport’ people and organizations leading social and community impact work while using sport as a platform. The event included a diverse group of S4D organizations - from field-based practitioners to funders, who will share how their program models are impacting communities and helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and how practitioners can integrate S4D approaches into their own programming, prior to open discussion.

**Key Takeaways:**

1) **Sport, Inclusion, and Social Skills**

Seren Fryatt (Life and Change Experienced thru) opened the panel discussion by asking each speaker to share their experience of working in the Sport for Development field and how they see the role of sport has played out in education and child development.

Warshan Hussin (Soccer Without Borders) first shared his personal experience with Soccer Without Borders. A refugee from Iraq, Hussin arrived in Maryland with his family when he was 12 and faced many challenges adjusting to his life in America. Playing soccer was an important way for Hussin to make friends and to deal with his childhood trauma before he moved to the U.S. When he discovered Soccer Without Borders in Maryland, he began to attend its practices. He described Soccer Without Borders as a place that not only brings people from different backgrounds together but also encourages each other to become better people. Recognizing the tremendous effect that this organization has made and the barriers it has helped him to overcome, Hussin returned as a coach. He aims to guide younger refugees and immigrant youths to overcome those similar challenges he faced during his journey and to help them develop leadership skills, build community, and achieve personal growth and success.

2) **Sport, Character Building, and Attitude Change**

Meghan Hussey (Special Olympics) and her team work with the seven global Special Olympics regions to advance the use of inclusive sport and leadership development around the world. Hussey believes that promoting inclusive sport among kids with intellectual disabilities can help train their social and emotional skills and build “can-do” attitudes. Through inclusive sport, youths with intellectual disabilities can find a new sense of belonging and inclusion. Hussey emphasized that youths who do not have intellectual disabilities also benefit greatly from attending inclusive sport programs. Studies have shown that those who coach or volunteer with inclusive sport programs believe that they can make a difference and real change in this world. For educators, this also shows that sport can be used as a catalyst to promote youth-led changes and the mutually-beneficial effect signals a future for attracting more attention and funding for these programs.
3) Gaps, Partnerships, and Long-Term Results

Adam Burgess (Coaches Across Continents) and Gunnar Hagstrom (Laureus Sport for Good Foundation) focused on how to build, manage and scale sport for development programs across the globe to work towards achieving the SDGs. As the Senior Development Manager, Hagstrom focuses on creating new and innovative partnerships to support the long-term growth and sustainability of Laureus Sport for Good’s work. His interest in sport for development emerged when he saw firsthand how the power of sport can help transform conflicts and build trust among Arab-Israelis and Jewish-Israeli youth. One interesting finding that Hagstrom shared with the audience is that in the immediate short-term (less than 9 months), there is a change in how youths perceive each other. However, to see a significant increase in community coming together often takes much longer time. In this case, it was over 5 years. This shows that from a funding standpoint, short-term funding will not be able to achieve sustainable results. Burgess echoed this point and added that developing flexible and innovative curricula and monitoring and evaluation tools will also help us to better understand how to promote long-term changes.

4) Looking Forward

At the end of the panel, each speaker shared a few things about what they hope to see in the sport for development field in the future. Hussin concluded that creating a robust alumni network will be the next strategic focus of Soccer Without Border. This will build a stronger community and effective mentorship program. Burgess emphasized that sport for development is still a relatively young sector that is flexible, growing, and adaptable to all different trends. This gives it the advantage to try out different education tools such as e-learning platforms, curriculum sharing, and data analysis. Hussey turned her attention to grassroots organizations. Despite the fact that grassroots organizations are often small, Hussey believes the synergy comes from a bottom-up approach and will propel the sector to expand and grow. Lastly, Hagstrom is curious about how to promote sport for development to other sectors, such as humanitarian work and community integration. He also believes it is important to explore working with larger entities such as the UN and USAID to integrate sport for development to the existing structures to develop the best practices.
Youth Crime and Violence Prevention: Strategies that Work?

Moderator: Heidi Kar, PhD, MHS, International Violence & Trauma Expert/Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Education Development Center

Speakers: Erik Alda, PhD, Project Director, Citizen Security Practice, Creative Associates International
Trish Campie, PhD, Principal Researcher, American Institutes for Research
Tyler Grigsby, Program Facilitator, One Common Unity

Event Description: This online learning event focused on community-based youth crime and violence prevention. Webinar speakers came from the American Institutes for Research, Creative Associates International, Education Development Center, and One Common Unity. Topics included the latest research on what works in community-based violence prevention; the importance of using a trauma-informed lens; how to incorporate family-based approaches; and the importance of bringing youth voice into violence-prevention activities.

Key Takeaways:

1) Researching and practicing community-based-violence prevention

Dr. Heidi Kar (Education Development Center or EDC) set the stage for the event by providing context for youth crime and prevention strategies. She mentioned that years of research in schools proved that children who witness violence between parents or in their community are at a higher risk of facing negative health effects than children who directly experience violence. Dr. Kar shared that neuropsychological and psychological research evidence shows that unresolved trauma leads to insufficient coping mechanisms that stimulate violence in the community.

Dr. Patricia Campie (American Institutes for Research) discussed potential strategies for preventing youth violence in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). In her research, practitioners used a wide range of interventions to attempt to reduce youth violence, from gang prevention to therapy in foster care 52 percent of studies saw positive intervention effects while 48 percent of studies reported mixed results.

Dr. Erik Alda (Creative Associates International) outlined the stages of the Proponte Más Secondary Violence Prevention Activity, which works to protect the youth of 800 families in Honduras who are most likely to join gangs. Based on the results of the initial risk evaluation, intervention, and re-evaluation stages of the program, Dr. Alda emphasized that supporting families with youth that are susceptible to violence can reduce their overall risk and increase resilience.

Dr. Erik Alda (Creative Associates International) outlined the stages of the Proponte Más Secondary Violence Prevention Activity, which works to protect the youth of 800 families in Honduras who are most likely to join gangs. Based on the results of the initial risk evaluation, intervention, and re-evaluation stages of the program, Dr. Alda emphasized that supporting families with youth that are susceptible to violence can reduce their overall risk and increase resilience.

Tyler Grigsby (One Common Unity) discussed how youth are leading efforts to drive down violence prevention efforts in their communities. Grigsby highlighted that One Common Unity is committed to building safe communities that support and empower youth by advocating and breaking down oppressive systems for a more accessible life experience. Grigsby stressed that workers should develop relationships with youth in their communities and receive the necessary resources to be able to lead.
2) How to better assist families

Dr. Campie emphasized that funders, researchers, and policymakers need to prioritize implementation rather than the outcome to promote violence prevention. Researchers also need to focus on individuals in prison and work with the community to identify employers, counselors, and social services who would be willing to accept and work with the perpetrators of violence. Based on her research, she found several approaches to be effective in LAC countries, including psychological parenting programs, school-based intervention, and multidimensional family therapy. The less effective approaches include restorative diversion, bully prevention, and violence interruption.

Dr. Kar mentioned that the EDC’s goal is to enhance mental resilience and coping mechanisms in youth and their family members. They focus on preventing violence through various coping mechanisms that involve engaging in physical exercises, spending time with friends, and practicing meditation techniques to relax the body and mind. Teaching anger management skills in schools has also helped break the cycle of violence.

3) Using a trauma-informed lens

Dr. Kar shared that a trauma-informed approach begins with understanding how trauma can affect an individual’s physical, social, and emotional wellbeing. She emphasized that attachment problems, mental health problems, aggression, and bullying in school are all results of unresolved trauma. Therefore, when quality care and essential services are provided, affected individuals are more likely to recover from post-traumatic experiences.

4) Empowering youth voices through violence-prevention activities

Grigsby mentioned that the Fly by Light Five Pillars-artistic expression, social-emotional literacy, health and wellness, environmental leadership, and social justice are important vehicles through which youth can express themselves. Social-emotional literacy is vital to prevent violence, as it enhances mindfulness, compassion, and understanding. Grigsby also highlighted the importance of incorporating health and wellness into violence prevention activities for individuals to develop healthy practices for the body, mind, and spirit. These forms of activities are effective in further reducing violence in communities and promoting social awareness and understanding.
Society for International Development Washington Chapter

1129 20th St. NW, Suite #500
Washington, DC 20036
+1-202-331-1317
events@sidw.org

SID-Washington Programming Staff

Katherine Raphaelson - President
kraphaelson@sidw.org

Paul A. Sherman - Director of Programs
psherman@sidw.org

FY 2020 Workgroup Co-Chairs

Matthew Breman - International Youth Foundation

Dr. Christy Olenik - Making Cents International

Photo Credit

Paul A. Sherman - Director of Programs

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank Program Associates: Megan Dixon, Mikaila Harper, Lydia Henning, Shabnam Kabir, Fadima Konate, Devang Laddha, Seth Reinhard, Melina Reynoso, and Vivian Zhang for their hard work to create this report.