



IVCO
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forum

SUCO

Inclusive Development Practice for Youth

VSO

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Presenting the IVCO theme paper by

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About VSO



- We are an international, independent development organisation. We are a movement of volunteering for development as an affective development approach and practice to achieve development outcomes in areas of education, health and livelihoods.
- We work across 25 countries in Africa and Asia, with strategic partnerships that strive towards creating sustainable and lasting change for primary actors by, building gender and social inclusion, social accountability and resilience in to community capability.
- We reach about 2million people annually.



IVCO Theme Paper: *'Inclusive Development Practice for Youth'*



- Highlights how youth are a key development actor today
- Explores current trends in youth development
- Examines 4 case studies from different parts of the world
- Presents 4 questions for us to reflect and look for new ways to address them



Where are youth today?



- Half (3.8bn) of global population is under 30 years
- Young people, particularly in global south, face multiple development challenge:
 - Poor level of learning achievement
 - Low employment and income (71 million unemployed)
 - Gender disparity
 - 19 out of 20 youth work to earn less than the extreme poverty level of \$1.90 a day.



- No globally-recognised age definition of when people are considered ‘youth’
- Definition varies based on culture, tradition, socio-economic contexts
- Youth became a prominent post-2015 agenda (SDGs)
- Several institutional donors (e.g. UK, US, German, Australian) and 190 national governments recognised youth through policy frameworks or dedicated programmes



Beyond policy commitments...



- Youth development programmes are under-resourced and lack an inclusive approach.
- 28 of top 30 youngest population countries are in Africa which are amongst the poorest nations.
- Resource commitment is crucial to inclusive youth development agenda moving forward in SDGs
- Equally key is recognition of youth volunteering as a critical resource in SDG achievement
- Rwanda is a case that recognises youth volunteering and its contribution to national income to about 30%.



Evidence in practice: Four case studies



- Evidence of inclusive youth development is sparse
- The following four case studies present promise around how inclusive youth development can happen



Case studies: what do they tell us?



- **Action for Fundamental Change and Development (AFFCAD) - Uganda**
 - Young people volunteer to build inclusive youth development environments in the organisations they work
- **International Citizen Service (ICS)**
 - ICS programme intentionally promoted inclusion and helped high level of personal development of youth who participated in the programme



...Case studies: what do they tell us?



- **5th Space (Pravah and ComMutiny – The Youth Collective) – India**
 - Youth create their own development path when given the space to nurture them.
 - Similar to ICS, they achieve a much higher level of personal development through peer engagement
- **UnYPhil – Philippines**
 - Another peer to peer success story.
 - Through a campaign with ‘peer facilitators’ (community and school volunteers), 2,800 students reached against child marriage, alone in 2017; zero early/child marriage was reported in 2018.



Lessons for IVCO, governments, donors and wider development sector?



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- Multi-stakeholder collaboration to ensure a good understanding of power, vulnerability and capability in local communities, relating to inclusive youth development.
- Build youth volunteering and voice effectively in to program design by carefully matching volunteers' skills, knowledge and attitudes to specific youth contexts.
- Improved programme design would help VIOs to monitor, measure and continuously learn for quality youth volunteering-led development results.
- Youth volunteerism should be linked to development objectives in national government plans to recognize and measure contributions to inclusive youth development.

Way Forward: four questions



- **Research:** What additional evidence we need to demonstrate the connection between youth volunteering, inclusive youth development and the SDGs?
- **Programme:** How can monitoring and evaluation systems be designed to better capture inclusion and volunteering outcomes in youth development programs?
- **Policy:** How can governments formally recognise youth volunteering as a critical mechanism for delivery of SDGs?
- **Financing:** How can governments provide adequate planning and budgeting to youth volunteering for inclusive youth development?

