



SPECIAL YOUTH PROGRAMME REPORT




Acknowledgements:

This publication was written and coordinated by Saskia Schellekens, Technical Specialist Adolescents and Youth, UNFPA, with support of Lorena Valencia, intern at UNFPA. Final editing was done by Amy Singer. With sincere gratitude to all Special Youth Programme fellows, supervisors and colleagues for their valuable inputs and support.

Design and Production by Phoenix Design Aid, Denmark


*Printed on official environmentally approved paper with vegetable
-based printing inks.*

ISO 14001 and 9001 certified

 *printed on recycled paper*



SPECIAL YOUTH PROGRAMME REPORT



"We need you and your ideas, because the difference between our world today and our world tomorrow rests with you. You are the future, and more-so, you are the present."

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid,
UNFPA Executive Director

How it began

The Special Youth Programme (SYP) was established at the request of UNFPA's Executive Director, Ms. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, in response to a recommendation made during the consultative Youth Advisory Panel Meeting convened by UNFPA in April 2004. At this meeting, which brought together representatives from youth networks around the world, youth participants suggested that UNFPA involve young people at various levels of the organization - as advisers, interns, apprentices, consultants or staff members. Since existing recruitment policies regarding age and educational qualifications were not favourable for providing these opportunities to young people from developing countries, a Special Youth Programme (hence the name) was established to allow UNFPA to achieve these three objectives:

- to engage youth in policy development and programming;
- to help build the capacity of young people and strengthen their leadership skills in addressing population, sexual and reproductive health, gender, and HIV/AIDS issues, especially in the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals;
- to sensitise both the young people and the UNFPA staff on various modalities of working together to address among other things, population, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and gender, culture and human rights issues.

We started piloting the Special Youth Programme with three fellows in the fall of 2004. UNFPA has now hosted five groups of fellows, with a total of 26 fellows from 25 different countries.

How it works

SYP recruits young people from developing countries who have some programme experience in development work to join UNFPA for a remunerated fellowship. Their experience may come from involvement

in NGOs, community-based organisations, UNFPA-supported youth programmes and governmental organisations. Participants first undertake a six month fellowship at UNFPA's Headquarters in New York. This is followed by a three month fellowship in the UNFPA Country Office in the country that the young person comes from.

The work assignments of the SYP fellows expose them to the advocacy, policy and programme work of UNFPA at global, regional and country levels. A significant part of the fellows' assignments at Headquarters concern getting involved in existing activities, projects or programmes, while the remainder focuses on developing a concrete work plan to the fellow's own context and country for further follow up and implementation during the Country Office fellowship.

Individual mentors monitor the fellows' professional development and provide constructive feedback to guide them in their short and longer term professional growth. Fellows are given assignments that challenge them intellectually and professionally, that encourage them to identify their personal strengths and weaknesses and help build their leadership capacity and skills in substantive areas of UNFPA's work.

The fellows also avail themselves of technical and programme expertise that resides in UNFPA. They undergo an extensive orientation programme at the start of their Headquarters fellowships and attend special briefings and interactive sessions with select specialists and advisers of the Fund. These provide the SYP fellows with a comprehensive view of UNFPA's work.

Upon completion of both their Headquarters and Country Office fellowships, the SYP fellows continue to be engaged with UNFPA through an online forum. The forum serves as a crossroads for current and former



fellows and promotes a long-term connection to the programme and UNFPA. It strengthens knowledge-sharing and offers new fellows an opportunity to draw on the experience and know-how of SYP alumni.

SYP results to date and what's to come

SYP has proven to be a life-changing experience, not only for the fellows, but for UNFPA staff as well. The programme is a living example of how “youth-adult partnerships” are possible and necessary if we want to succeed in addressing the needs and rights of young people. How better to accomplish this than by working side by side with young people?

In the following pages, you will meet each of the fellows and see how their participation in the SYP influenced their lives. Each profile consists of a brief introduction of the fellow's background before joining the programme, an overview of his or her involvement both during the Headquarters and Country Office fellowships, and an update on what the fellow did after completing the programme and what he or she is involved in today.

As this publication is going to print the latest group of fellows have completed their Country Office fellowships, and UNFPA is about to recruit a new group to start their fellowships.

In our latest survey, fellows said their experience with the SYP has empowered them with invaluable knowledge and encouraged them to use it to benefit their countries. They also report that the SYP fellowship has greatly shaped their future plans. Many see themselves furthering their studies in public health, population studies or related fields. Others intend to continue working with local NGOs. Many remain engaged with UNFPA at the country level, and all will keep working to advance the agenda of young people at the local, country, regional and/or international levels.

As part of UNFPA's new 2008-2011 Global Programme, and based on the programme's results to date, the Fund will continue to recruit young fellows and support the Special Youth Programme. Doing so serves to prepare a future generation of experts and advocates from developing countries to form a critical mass that will support the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. UNFPA hopes that by sharing the experiences of the Special Youth Programme, we will inspire other international agencies to follow our example and make youth participation a regular part of their work routine and thus expand the scope of our alliances and efforts for sustainable development.





NORWELL HINDS
GUYANA



KARIMA MCKENZIE-THOMAS
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



ANA LAURA BECKER DE AGUIAR
BRAZIL



ARIEL GONZÁLEZ GALEANO
PARAGUAY



IMANE KHACHANI
MOROCCO



CHERNOR ABDULAI BAH
SIERRA LEONE



FIONA KAIKAI
SIERRA LEONE



LOUKMAN TIDJANI
BENIN



THEOPHILUS EKPON
NIGERIA

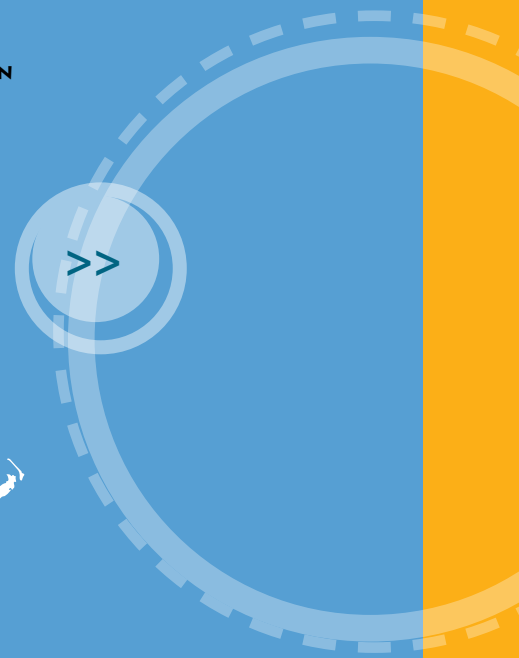


WENDI COMFORT MUNGHO
CAMEROON



MILENA ZAHARIEVA
BULGARIA

Please meet the 26 fellows
that have so far participated
in UNFPA's Special Youth
Programme and the countries
they represented





Allan grew up in one of the slums of Kampala, the capital of Uganda, where he went to the Kololo High School. To raise awareness among young people in his community on HIV/AIDS, he volunteered as a peer educator in a local NGO initiative called "Making Positive Living Attractive to Youth" that was supported by the African Youth Alliance. He also worked with the Kamwokya Christian Caring Community youth initiative, Treasure Life Youth Centre.

Allan Kayanja >>

AGE: *20

FROM: UGANDA

Allan's fellowship began with a trip to Nairobi, Kenya, his first trip outside of Uganda, where he attended an regional meeting on knowledge sharing and capacity building for scaling up responses to sexual reproductive health and HIV prevention needs of young people. Through his participation he was able to share experiences from his volunteer work with his NGO and help identify strategies to improve the quality and outreach of UNFPA's programming in Africa. Following his trip to Nairobi, Allan joined the UNFPA Headquarters in New York. This was a huge transition for Allan, as it would prove for many other fellows that would follow him. A transition that came with many challenges as well as opportunities, that Allan ultimately navigated very well. In UNFPA Headquarters he was first and foremost involved in follow up work on the meeting he had attended in Nairobi, which included the development of an anthology of country profiles illustrating adolescent sexual and reproductive health and HIV-prevention programming in UNFPA country-supported projects in Africa. Allan also collaborated on the expansion and strengthening of the Africa Division Youth Advocacy Network and acted as its youth focal point. Additionally, Allan contributed to the development of UNFPA's annual flagship publication, State

of married adolescent girls for inclusion in the global photographic exhibition, "Chasing the Dream: Youth Faces of the Millennium Development Goals."

What did Allan do after SYP?

Upon completion of his fellowship, Allan participated in the 14th International Conference on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA) that took place in Abuja, Nigeria. ICASA brought together a committed group of young people who initiated a regional network aimed at increasing awareness of and influencing policy developments on sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS issues for African youth at the country and regional levels. Allan also participated in the Regional Youth Forum on Population and Development in Lusaka, Zambia, where UNFPA staff working on youth issues and young people from around the continent came together to formally launch the African Youth and Adolescents Network on Population and Development (AfriYAN) and formulate its charter and methods of operation. Allan is currently the Uganda AfriYAN focal point and its youth advisor in the area of adolescent sexual and reproductive health and advocacy. Together with the network

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_20477

