

Youth Empowerment and Livelihoods

Positive Adolescent Development- The Third Life Stage:

The adolescence stage of one's life (ages 12 to 18) is an essential time of development. Through the lens of the life cycle approach, Positive Adolescent Development (PAD) is the third and final stage. The focus for life skills development is on the *Five Core Competencies*: Critical thinking; Emotional management; Communication; Relationship building; and Social responsibility.

The ultimate goal for adolescents is **'Youth are active learners equipped to be productive and healthy citizens.'** There

are three learning outcomes associated with adolescence: 1) Youth are functionally literate and promoting literacy within their community; 2) Youth build a positive, hopeful identity as active, engaged, and responsible citizens; and 3) Youth develop economic capacity and viability for self and others. World Vision is helping youth in these three areas through many of its programmes. A few examples are listed below:



What World Vision is doing for Youth:



- **Asia Leader Forum- Chennai, India:** Children are playing a key role in speaking to adults on matters that affect children's well-being. Their input is helping to improve local and national programmes as well as influencing World Vision's thinking and decision making. This event, hosted August 13-15, 2012, is an example of how World Vision provided children and youth the opportunity for their voice to be heard.
- **Yes Youth Can! Nyanza, Kenya:** A youth empowerment programme that seeks to achieve peaceful coexistence and create new livelihood opportunities for youth. The programme has established approximately 5,000 Village Youth Groups within six counties and 1,200 of these groups are registered with the Ministry of Gender and Social Development. These groups allow youth to lead campaigns around community and national issues. Providing these experiences helps them with livelihood opportunities and can lead to jobs.

- E-FACE (Ethiopians Fighting Against Child Exploitation), Ethiopia:** A four-year U.S. government funded project undertaken in collaboration with World Vision to improve the livelihoods of 7,000 vulnerable families and 2,200 youth. The project goal is to reduce exploitative child labour by improving market access to textile and agriculture markets for these families and youth. This project will support youth in the following two ways:
 - to support working youth in the textile industry (non-loan businesses) to access appropriate education and skill-development training and savings
 - to support youth to engage in rural income generating activities.
- ‘The World Youth Want’ (Youth Regional Forums), the Middle East and Europe Region:** These events give youth an opportunity to engage in one of the most important advocacy opportunities of their generation - influencing the Post 2015 Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Framework. Youth from Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East will gather to debate and determine their position and give concrete recommendations. These recommendations will be documented by youth and presented in two upcoming National Consultations held by the United Nations in Armenia and Pakistan.

