



*Developing the Youth NGOs Anti-Poverty
Strategy*

CONSULTATIVE FORUM



20 MAY 2010



“HOW CAN YOUTH NGOs BEST
CONTRIBUTE TO POVERTY ERADICATION
IN OUR COMMUNITIES, PARTICULARLY
AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE”

OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY
PROCEEDINGS

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Not convened

19. Skills Development

HOW CAN YOUTH NGOs BEST CONTRIBUTE TO POVERTY ERADICATION IN OUR COMMUNITIES, PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE?

The following proceedings have been prepared from the hand-written notes submitted by forum delegates. They have been typed as close to the original notes as possible. If you find any errors in the proceedings (e.g. a misinterpretation of handwriting!), please notify the YDN with the correction/s.

1. Disability and Discrimination

- In talking about poverty, youth with disabilities is not discussed;
- There are things disabled youth can do for themselves to contribute towards alleviating poverty.
- They can engage, for example, in some types of agricultural activities (community food gardens) to feed their community and even feed themselves.
- Engaging in agriculture activities is therapeutic and builds self worth and pride.
- They can do commercial farming, start their own companies, contribute to the economy and create jobs.
- They should not be discriminated against and viewed as not being able to make a contribution.
- The disabled should be mobilised. They should be organised, given resources and support. Just as abled (able-bodied) people get support and resources to pursue their endeavours, disabled individuals should be given support and resources to pursue their endeavours as well. Skills and abilities of disabled individuals should be tapped into and utilised towards eradicating poverty.

2. Politics and Nationalisation

- The role of NGOs has diminished in the political sphere since 1994. Youth NGOs need to align themselves with political parties.
- It's important to position the sector appropriately so that when political parties, e.g. the ANCYL, make a proposal the youth NGO sector has a clear position on that.
- There is a need to have a youth voice economic development agencies, e.g. Gauteng Economic Development Agency.
- Youth NGOs need to be budgeted for so that youth don't just volunteer unpaid.
- YDN must call politicians to need the youth, e.g. at forums like this there should be representation from the politicians themselves.
- NGOs should identify the gaps that are there in the national agenda, e.g. employment, Gautrain.
- Youth NGOs have to come up with a strategy document of how they will work together.
- Role of the Youth NGO sector versus ANCYL: What happened to the alliance formed last times?
- Youth to be active from ward level all the way to the national level.
- Youth to form a positional paper on nationalisation/politics.

3. Youth access into the mainstream of the economy

- Challenge to poverty – young people cannot participate in the mainstreams of the economy.
- These people must be seen as the drivers behind poverty alleviation.
- Definition – lack of access?
- Experience as youth development organisations.
- Not defined as such. The concept is that opportunities to access funds are available, but the practical implementation of enterprise development is not that simple.
- Opportunities defined: Skills; Resources; Institutions; Individual talents
- The economic marker is still unchanged, BEE has tried to change this, but the aims and legs of these opportunities must be rolled out.
- Policies must be revised, e.g. government using people from rural areas and provide funding to start enterprise that must be preferential procurement to government.
- Lack of experience is used as excuse for channelling employment to the unskilled.
- Matriculated students starting opportunities at earlier level.
- Education is therefore one intervention; what are the other interventions?
- Potential vehicles for access to resources.
- Implementation of current interventions has been slow and not seen in rural communities.
- Initiatives are good, lack of alignment in terms of initiatives. Skills Development is one of the key strategies, whilst budgets are still not allocated. About to finalise (National) Anti-Poverty Strategy – how is it linked to industrial strategy. Skills Development plan is not aligned with implementation. Rushing towards the millennium goal.
- Challenge observed – Lack of comprehensiveness of development programmes. Assistance after training; accompany individual for a period; identify business, assign with experienced mentors, programmes lasts for 4 years. Comprehensive programme to be with individuals with commitment.
- Ownership shown through an integrated intervention. Other role players and stakeholders, policy not favourable. Lack of consciousness, must be supported on ground level.
- Agencies and DTI not accessible, poor attitude towards entrepreneurs.
- Why does SA perform so poor in entrepreneurial study?
- Are we locked into formal employment in South Africa?
- Empowerment: why since 1994 the share of previously disadvantaged has not grown?
- Consistent support over a long period of time, especially for farming.
- Banking institutions – 16 years into new democracy, why the 4 big banks?
- Why not direct investments?
- Too many things are too disbursed. Where is the impact?
- Youth must be stronger on these issues. South Africa does a lot of planning, but practical implementation is too slow.
- Do we have a programme that uses the skills from learnerships to provide job opportunities? A programme where people are employed in the skills.
- We do acknowledge there are interventions. Yet these interventions are not aligned, coordinated or sustainable.
- Funding is given without the element of mentorship.
- There is a need for educational curriculum to prepare youth for learnership and employment, including career path choices.
- Three scenarios: Walking apart; Walking alone; Walking together.
- Are the corporate strategies aligned with government strategies?
- Young people must start participating in community consultative forums.

- When and how do young people acquire business skills?

4. The role of formal/informal education in poverty eradication

- Formal: Academic; Informal: Learnerships/Internships/Skills Development; Non-Formal: ?
- Classify education (a need to?)
- Recognition of all forms of education.
- Dependency on Government.
- Link between formal education and NGOs serve bridging course
- Career guidance at high schools from grade 8.
- Funding opportunities for further education.
- Raise concern about career choice.
- Demanded skills?
- Youth NGOs work with employers.
- Expose children to different careers.
- Self sustainable – educate (grow plants/vegetables).
- Literacy on economic issues.
- Youth have voice on policy development reviews
- Incentives from government to bright students
- Youth NGOs supporting school kids with homework and after school activities.

5. Religion (FBOs) as change agents – religion and poverty

- Religion has always been used as a sanctuary for those that are poverty-riddled.
- Dogmatic teachings that all those that are poor and humble will see the kingdom.
- Distinction between the church and faith based organisations.
- Most organised group and infrastructure
- Targeting of young people – programmes that respond are minimal
- Coordination of programmes – from government, FBOs, community structures, religious organisations - step out of comfort zone, actively engage with poverty eradication.
- A lot of programmes previously came from the church, but over time tended to collapse – revitalisation of religious structures to re-engage individual young people.
- The church is one of the strongest pillars of our society, but it is not being used as an agent of change for poverty eradication in our communities (e.g. Religious leaders, community members, and the Presidency).
- Lack of inter-faith engagement – that allow youth to be involved in poverty eradication.
- Religious organisations are the most organised groups.
- Churches start using the good book to empower poor.
- As been used as a change agent for change?
- Teacher of religion regarding poverty must be changed.
- Coordination among young people
- The see poverty (FBOs need to understand poverty, out of their comfort zone)
- Youth are not enrolled in activities which eradicate poverty.
- Working on young people to develop inside.
- FBO and church structure – bible has been used to oppress our people
- Encourage young people to volunteer
- The church in South Africa's context – never been used properly to eradicate poverty.

- Some FBO, as agenda is why not inter-faith programme which suits young people to eradicate (poverty).

6. Agri-village Youth projects

- The youth farm should have agriculture or knowledge of Farming
- Khula Sonke
- The previous owner would run the farm and re-buy it because the youth have no idea about farming.
- What do you say about Agrivillage or Agriculture? It should be an advantageous thing, and make the youth to be interested in agriculture. Also do farm tourism and fish farming – to make youth interested in farmers and make them understand that agriculture is more important than it seems. And it would be nice to have youth farmers.
- The Youth in Western Cape are driving tractors, but the people or government does not recognise them; and the worst part is that those youngsters do not have licences.
- The idea is we can help the youth learn how to use technology and know how to work in farming.
- All people who are orphans should be introduced to farming or agriculture so they know how to use their hands in terms of introducing agriculture to them.
- The great thing about Agrivillage is that you can do anything or plant anything and the people can realise how beautiful is the nature.
- There are many ways to make farming interesting in the way of taking school kids to camping on farms; so we can make agriculture fun to the young people, and maybe they can start enjoying it. And arts and culture have their way of camping.

7. Community Media/Print and electronics

- Community media is the ideal tool for empowerment and to fight poverty. It's so sad that it is underutilised.
- Community radios were new in Western Cape 12 years ago. The existing radio was seen as empowered.
- Media has lost its responsibility to develop.
- Community broadcasting are working hard to understand and own development.
- Initiative must be driven.
- Influence of community radio brought positivity to the community.
- Businesses will partner with community radio to influence and make an impact in the community.
- Media is the tool to fight unemployment, as it is the quickest and easiest way to communicate the needs of the community.
- Community media works within the community and not as mass media.
- Youth NGOs eradicating poverty – young people from community radios are provided with opportunities on national level.
- Practical platform for youth, and not only theoretical.
- Media can create millionaires.
- Social/network tools work, even MixIt.
- Much is done, too little documentation.
- Easier than we think.
- A great need to share good news.
- Business can buy airtime/ad space = partner.

- Use media to empower the unemployed masses.
- Media is a tool for fighting poverty....
- Politicians must see that policy is in support.
- NCRF ensure there is space to grow media/radios
- Who will take this to the greater SA? It's media "nothing for us, without us" – make the circle bigger. Is this conference going beyond these four walls? Let's get the message out there.

8. Socio Economic Projects for poor children and unemployed youth/sustainability of poverty eradication activities

- Projects that can empower unemployed (parents, orphaned children) in the communities.
- Assisting with homework, especially the orphaned.
- Feeding Scheme.
- Mobilise resources to buy them uniforms.
- Gardening project – community volunteers; school kids, practicals; sell extra produce to support needy children.
- Poultry production.
- Access funding to start programme.
- Mobilise volunteers.
- Manage agricultural processes.
- Make sure that community projects are run with care/professionalism.
- Cluster agricultural projects to avoid competition and ensure that all projects get a fair share of profits – on a rotational basis.
- Obtaining a market for their produce through social entrepreneurship.
- Lobby for Social Entrepreneurship Bill and outline benefits.
- Government to incentivise social entrepreneurship.
- Skills are critical and government involvement, especially Departments of Agriculture and Labour.
- Government to look into idle farms issues during land restitution process and identify people already in farming in different communities and give them first preference.

9. Youth NGOs as foot soldiers of the rural development and land reform

- NGOs to be used as a link or serve as a forum for the rural development and land reform departments in fulfilling their mandates.
- NGOs will mobilise young people or they will disseminate information among the youth; or the NGOs could train young people (NGOs to serve as training providers). NGOs to inform and capacitate youth.
- Funders' perspective: Target youth development initiatives and provide financial assistance/organisational development.
- A member of the NDA believes that there should be a way in which youth in different areas should be dealt with, and particular approaches and programmes to be used.
- That a small part of the youth is the one that can be a distinction to others.
- There should be communication and a different manner of approach to government.
- Believe that the government is not really held accountable.
- Should consider the way in which houses are maintained. Value of education infrastructure...

- The other thing is looking at apartheid; it was a benefit to a small group of people.
- When travelling overseas you visit small towns, you can find young people around, but in our country you can't.

10. Poverty and socio-economic rights

- Two areas to focus on: Water and housing delivery, e.g. meters and story of mama Grootboom.
- How do NGOs contribute to the practical implementation of the precepts of the constitution, e.g. Section 26?
- Youth NGOs need to understand what is enshrined in the constitution, to be well informed.
- How do Youth NGOs identify areas where they can help in alleviating poverty?
- The Youth NGO sector needs to actively give life to the concept of "citizenship:" volunteering in the construction projects that are currently funded by government.
- Three components: the delivery of services; the housing issue, e.g. Thabo Mbeki project; citizenship.
- Multi-stakeholder coordination.
- Exclusion of youth, to be addressed through Cooperatives.
- Start small success stories, e.g. going to townships to find energetic young people to be contracted for particular services – to encourage other young people.
- Use of local media to mobilise young people.
- Do exhibitions.
- Budget allocation at local level vs. Government political will....
- Capitalise on the World Cup.

11. Information Sharing

- Educational Information; Career Information; Human Rights Information; Current Affairs Information.
- Lack of information dissemination (stingy with info) – wanting to do things by yourself, not involving other people.
- Lack of knowledge access – not knowing where to go to get information and how to get there.
- Create platforms for youth NGOs to share information that would assist in poverty eradication.
- Consider types of technologies available to poorest of the poor. Not under-estimating what could be available and accessible to people.
- Community newspapers need to be distributed to communities for free.
- Establish information hubs, resource centres.
- Use of established structures, e.g. churches, schools, shops, etc. to disseminate information.
- Collaborate with community development workers and local NGOs to get the info to the people.
- Never under-estimate the information that people can access.
- Social networks to be used as a medium of communication and information sharing, bearing in mind that not everyone can access it in certain ways.

12. Public Private Partnerships/stakeholder engagement

- There is a need to clarify PPP (Public Private Partnership). After brainstorming the group's understanding, the common denominator is that a Public and a Private entity collaborate with the purpose of achieving a common goal.
- Is PPP ideal for eradicating poverty among youth? There is consensus that it can work.
- The formation of PPPs also creates gaps because often the beneficiaries are not actively involved.
- There is also a missing link in the PPP, whereby the Private sector (often) does not have an idea what the communities need. They work on assumptions.
- The roles must be clarified in a partnership arrangement.
- The government has set up policies but lacks monitoring mechanism/s.
- There are NGOs that are not working. Government must perform the regulatory tasks.
- There must be monitoring mechanism/s.
- The nature of PPP is politicised.
- There must be ownership by beneficiaries.
- There is often mistrust in PPPs.
- NGOs are often victimised.
- There is also lack of skills among other NGOs.
- There is also a need to identify gap in the PPP arrangement.
- The funding trend is also detrimental to the NGOs.

13. Sustainable Youth Entrepreneurship programmes

- Youth entrepreneurship is key to poverty eradication
- Job creation instead of making the young people work for someone else.
- Youth NGOs should provide the young people with opportunities to explore in the field of entrepreneurship.
- Formation of group projects for young people in the different communities is key.
- They need to be capacitated so that they understand their capabilities.
- Trainings on leadership is also key as it makes the young people take (the) lead in shaping their own future.
- Attachment of young people to mentors in their desired business field is very important.
- Need to provide seed capital for the young people starting their projects.
- Youth NGOs need to identify the viable entrepreneurship (opportunities) for the young people based on community needs.
- Create links with other organisations working in youth entrepreneurship programmes.
- Design flagship youth entrepreneurship programmes for the Youth NGOs' implementation.

14. HIV/AIDS-households headed by young people

- You find young people doing the functions of adults (e.g. These young people don't know where to get help and funding; these people are going to schools without food and so forth; (KZN) statistics at about 63% - are child-headed (households).
- There should be interventions because these (young) people are cheated of their youth.
- What has government done; is it enough? There is a belief that it is all a drop in the ocean.
- We should have awareness and enlighten them through our programmes.
- There's a need of concrete assistance through all...
- There should be volunteering from the community, going around and meeting up their needs.
- Do we as South Africans care enough? Yes, but because of the less image we have we don't really show (it), because emotionally we are not there.
- It's all about us as individuals. E.g. in my church we adopt those families and ensure their basic needs are met. And also have outings. (But) we all know that we can't really fully meet their needs.
- We also have to relate to these people.
- Need to help them by involving them in doing for themselves, rather than doing for them. Basically, we should help people (to) survive on their own. We are more dependent on our near shops.
- We must remember that these young people are also affected by the situation.
- What can we, as NGOs, do that the government can't, or has failed to do?
- It's about shortage of information, or advertising.
- We don't understand where/when we (NGOs) should intervene.
- Should we get the victims talking?
- Limpopo – a person was working at that condition!
- We also understand that our intervention can really help can really help.
- We should help people understand that they are allowed to dream, and become who they want to become.
- There should be funding kept aside for these people to further their careers.
- We have to be more of a motivational system to these people.
- They should also be told that they have an equal chance as those kids with parents.

15. Learnerships/Internship Programmes

- Overall notion: if we provide people with skills, they will become more employable. Becoming more employable provides them with options.
- ESDA –Employment and Skills Development Agency.
- Through Learnerships young people are able to receive in-service training.
- Learnerships are available in all sectors but are dependent on SETAs, government and corporate sector.
- Social Development – proof that it works. Young people are part of the programme. Placed in a corporate environment. ESDA – dependent on buy-in. Do you interface with the learners? Starting first formal employment.
- At least 1 year mentoring programme.
- Must be placed where their specific skills are applicable.
- Shortage of opportunities for interships.
- Another issue is relevance of skills.

- Corporates making profits do not have the time to mentor internships (interns). Entity (is) responsible for trainees; therefore they are hesitant to become involved in Learnerships. Only applied as a task. Mentoring is included in Learnership programmes.
- Lack of buy-in from learners in Learnership may be a challenge.
- Administration may be difficult. Room for Youth Development NGOs to investigate.
- Adopt youth in programme.
- Practical used for youngsters in Learnerships. Students from tertiary institutions may be able to mentor and educate Learnership participants.
- CDWL - Western Cape
- People in Learnership programmes in local NGOs finished CDWL (Community Development Worker Learnership) advance to another Learnership.
- Youngsters should not be motivated by the stipends, but by the possibility of more employment; skills to become entrepreneurs.
- In the community, businesses are reluctant and need convincing; changing their mindset.
- NGOs are the ground-workers for the opportunities for profit.
- One of the key factors would be to provide mentoring.
- Showcase best practice models through the media.
- Next phase – the provincial departments of Labour
- Common grounds – work with provincial departments to promote Learnerships and Internship programmes.
- Project dealing with Learnerships may apply for funding.
- Entrepreneurial skills – conversations to have:
 - At what SETA's are we?
 - Matching funding through SETA's
 - Negotiate with training provider/s
 - Local employable sectors, e.g. wine in the Western Cape
- Learnerships work as a poverty alleviation tool.
- Model can be duplicated in any other province.
- Must be a follow-up in terms of incentives.
- Special programmes for deep rural youth to become aware.
- Companies should have buy-in and investments.
- Cultural forums with cultural officers.

16. Youth Disability and Poverty

- If the able youth is affected by the poverty issue, what more about the disabled.
- The very same person who is affected by poverty and disability is the same person who from home everyone is abled, but affected by poverty too and are depending on the disability grant of the disabled.
- A proper training is needed for those people who are not taken serious(ly).
- Training to the family (of the disabled person) is needed on how to deal with the disability. And not only the family, but also the community.
- There are people who are separated and placed on corners, robots and trains for them to ask for money and at the end of the day the money will be taken away from the very same disabled people.
- Youth with disabilities need to be empowered and be skilled so they can also get a decent employment like any other abled youth. They must not be treated like beggars and placed on the streets; they must be treated like pro-active people.
- NGOs working with people with disability must be given funding to enable them to deal with issues affecting young people with disabilities.

- Disabled people need to be heard about issues that affect them.
- They don't need to be generalised, but to be tackled specifically.
- Young people with disabilities are not taken care of properly.
- NGOs need structures that will include or involve people with disabilities.
- NGOs should be involved and raise voices.
- Possible opportunities should be provided to youth with disabilities.

17. Poverty and National Policies

- Not new policies;
- Many adopting a wait and see attitude;
- Implementation plan does not speak to policy;
- Problem with government association with NEDLAC;
- Constant implementation challenges;
- Questioning government commitment; Questioning government commitment to civil society;
- Want to retain power;
- Civil society needs to regain strength; do not need government approval;
- Government agencies such as NDA present a challenge to civil society;
- Government is not releasing the necessary funds;
- Both policies and implementation need to be changed;
- Civil society needs to start re-engaging with government re policy, but will government listen?
- Needs a strong civil society organisation to challenge government;
- Civil society has been diluted by political processes, too politicised – if not aligned to ANCYL, you have no presence.
- Civil society needs to be better at selling their successes;
- Need a new civil society to fight for poverty eradication, like we fought apartheid.
- Way forward: civil society's voice is missing. It should be heard. Civil society representations must be accurate. Contextualise policies and models to suit South Africans civil society should initiate policy processes and not wait for government.

18. Refugees and migrants in the eradication of poverty

- Focus on migrants/refugees as a “disadvantaged group”
- Need to turn the tide of migration – people must be encouraged to go back to the rural areas.
- In terms of Africa, people are predominantly moving from North to South, e.g. DRC, Angola.
- Rural service centres must be revived.
- Need to effectively implement the Immigration Act to deal with the uncontrolled influx of immigrants.
- Issue of migration to be taken to NEPAD/AU; Pan African Youth to be contacted.
- Creation of economic opportunities in other African countries by South African institutions, e.g. GEDA African Desk.
- The civic movement must be strong in Africa.
- Culture of participating in politics in others African countries, e.g. where is the youth in Zimbabwe?