



Building youth capacity

Welcome to another edition of the Youth Visioning newsletter. This issue highlights three projects where awareness activities and training have led to the increased capacity of young people to make an impact in their communities. Youth group leaders in **Grenada** received training on how to improve the efficiency of their organisation's operating structure; three villages in **Niue** united to learn how to clean-up and maintain their local environment; and young volunteers in **Papua New Guinea** participated in HIV/AIDS awareness training.

Concerning this latter project, **Norman Wai** (project leader), was selected as one of forty young professionals from around the Pacific region to participate in the second annual Pacific Future Environment Leaders Forum (Suva, Fiji). During the event 12-14 March 2008, participants explored areas such as 'Leadership for the Future,' 'Adapting

to Climate Change' and 'Engaging People in Community Based Projects.'

In other news, **Ebonie Fifita (On the Spot, Tonga)** participated in an online training program where volunteer media experts from Youth Action for Change trained young people in Papua New Guinea and Tonga on media skills. The aim is to equip the young participants with the skills to produce their own media programs.

For further information please visit www.youthvisioning.org. We welcome any feedback or questions you may have. You can reach us by emailing m.tran@unesco.org.

Sincerely,
Youth Visioning Committee



Photo courtesy of Norman Wai

FEATURED PROJECTS This Issue (March-April '08)

**Youth Empowerment
Foundation,
HIV/AIDS Capacity Building
for Youth,
Grenada**

**Mellisa Talagi,
Beautify the Village of
Avatele,
Niue**

**Norman Wai,
Let's Fight HIV/AIDS
together!
Papua New Guinea**



Photos courtesy of Clifton Nedd

The **Youth Empowerment Foundation of Grenada Inc.** led by **Samuel Antoine, Quasi Andrew** and **Clifton Nedd** developed a project that was aimed at preparing eighteen community based youth groups to play an effective role in HIV and AIDS Programme at the local level.

The activities of this project (**October – December 2007**) included:

- Visiting youth groups to review their operating structure and identifying capacity constraints;
- Holding a 4-day workshop with invited facilitators.

The main topics covered in the workshop included capacity building exercises on how to:

1. Analyse a situation to determine core and related problems;

2. Identify projects to address problems and to identify stakeholders and conduct a self and stakeholder analysis;
3. Develop effective projects including writing the project document;
4. Manage a project cycle, and monitor and report on a project;
5. Design and implement HIV-related projects;
6. Design effective Information, Education and Communication (IEC)/ Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) communication materials.

YEF will continue to provide support to the youth groups. Already, a partnership with the Grenada Arts Council has been forged to engage youth groups in the creation of public artwork using recycled materials. Two youth groups are receiving training on using recycled paper to create displays and containers for Grenada's spices to be sold in the tourism industry.

For more information visit the project page, [HIV/AIDS Project Management Capacity Building for Youth Groups](#)

YOUTH SAID IT

“This project has empowered the leadership of some community based youth groups with key skills that they can now utilize to perform the expanded role that has now become their responsibility. For many years youth groups have been contributing to the holistic development of young people. This project enabled them to better perform their role.”

- Samuel Antoine, Director General YEF

BEAUTIFY THE VILLAGE OF AVATALE

NIUE



Photos courtesy of Mellisa Talagi

Mellisa Talagi and the **Avatale Youth Group** implemented a project to develop a clean and safe environment in Niue through a beautification program. The goal was to have three villages working together in keeping their community clean.

The activities of this project (**September 2006 – December 2007**) included:

- Designing and erecting billboards to create awareness amongst the villages about the dumping of rubbish and to encourage Avatale as a ‘litter-free village’;
- Holding several village meetings to discuss the issue, looking for solutions and reviewing actions and progress;
- Organising clean-up days involving all the residents in the community with a focus on the beach area;
- Holding poster, speech, poem and singing competitions with the theme of environmental protection and the beautification of the village.

For more information visit the project page, [Beautify the Village of Avatele Oneonepata](#)

YOUTH SAID IT

“This project has shown me how great it is to have an opportunity in doing something for the youth of our village. It was an awesome feeling that I felt when my project proposal was through and then it took some time to organize due to other committed work and now it has come to an end. This is a great effort for me as a first timer to do something like this and have done something good for the village. My father has done a lot for the village and now I have done that as well.”

- Mellisa Talagi



Photos courtesy of Norman Wai

Norman Wai and the **Foundation for Young People** implemented an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign with the aim of minimising and reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Western Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea. Overall, the group presented their program to more than 10,000 students, 300 staff members and 800 community members.

The activities of this project (**September – December 2007**) included:

- Organising a one-day in-house training session with Provincial Aids Council officers to train youth volunteers on the latest HIV/AIDS information including statistics, access to prevention, transmission and care and gender issues;
- Disseminating the HIV/AIDS information with the trained youth volunteers to 29 institutions in the Western Highlands Province. This included posters, brochures and condoms;
- Performing 8 radio spots over 8 weeks with the local radio station to spread awareness on the issue;
- Surveys of the students conducted during the visits revealed that although many had basic knowledge of HIV/AIDS, a large proportion were still confused about the facts, particularly those in the rural areas of the province. As a result, there is a clear need to ensure that further educational activities are implemented in the province, a challenge that the Foundation for Young People are taking on.

For more information visit the project page, [Let's fight HIV/AIDS together!](#)



YOUTH SAID IT

“The Foundation for Young People is hopeful of continuing the project in the future. We hope to try to improve our method of presentations to include drama, poetry, storytelling, video shows, puppetry or oral discussions about HIV/AIDS and its impacts. We intend to seek funding from donor aid agencies to fund us to continue with the project.”

- *Norman Wai*