

PROGRESS REPORT



YOUTH VISIONING FOR ISLAND LIVING:

**SUPPORTING YOUTH IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING THE
REVIEW OF THE SIDS PROGRAMME
OF ACTION, MAURITIUS 2005**



Prepared by:
Youth Visioning Committee
Coasts & Small Islands Platform, UNESCO

For the Lighthouse Foundation
July 2006

1. INTRODUCTION

Youth Visioning for Island Living is a process whereby young people living in small islands envision how they would like to see their islands develop and change over the coming decade; and then work to implement their proposals and plans on the ground in their islands.

Preparatory activities started in 2003, and following a successful gathering of 94 island youth in Mauritius in January 2005, supported by several different organizations including the Lighthouse Foundation, the third and most important phase of Youth Visioning for Island Living began – project implementation. Throughout the Youth Visioning process, youth-led project implementation in participating small island states and territories has been emphasized as being the most important component of this initiative.

It took some time for the projects to get underway, since the youth first of all had to return to their islands and report to their individual sponsors on the outcome of the meeting in Mauritius. It was then necessary to develop criteria and templates for proposal preparation and review. To this end, an immediate project funding request (received in January 2005) from the Singapore youth for an inter-generational activity to celebrate the Chinese New Year provided an important testing ground for project design, review, funding and implementation. In September 2005, a contract for project support was signed with the Lighthouse Foundation and thenceforth the list of Youth Visioning projects around the world began to steadily grow.

This report has been prepared for the Lighthouse Foundation as a deliverable for the contract entitled ‘Youth Visioning for Island living: Supporting youth in the implementation of sustainable development activities following the Review of the SIDS Programme of Action, Mauritius 2005’, and signed on 22 September 2005. It concentrates on the progress made to date in the implementation of youth-led projects in small islands and territories in the Caribbean, Pacific, and Atlantic/Indian Ocean/Mediterranean/South China Sea (AIMS) regions within the framework of Youth Visioning for Island Living.

2. METHODOLOGY

Youth Visioning activities continue to be coordinated by a core team of four people employed by the UNESCO Coastal Regions and Small Islands (CSI) Platform. The members of the Youth Visioning Committee are as follows: Dr. Gillian Cambers (based in Puerto Rico), Ms. Fathimath Ghina and Mr. Michael Tran (both based at UNESCO-Paris) and Ms. Lindsey Higgs (based temporarily at the UNESCO Office for the Pacific in Apia, Samoa). The composition of the committee has remained the same since February 2005 when Fathimath came onboard following Ms. Claire Green's decision to take extended leave. The work of the Committee is supported by Ms. Stéphanie Ledauphin and Ms. Jennifer Heath, who oversee the issuing of contracts and the transfer of funds to the youth. Dr. Dirk Troost, Chief of the Coasts and Small Islands Platform oversees the entire structure.

All decisions are taken jointly by the Committee, with selection and funding decisions based on the previously established criteria (see Annex 1). Projects are assigned to individual committee members for detailed follow-up. Given the different geographic locations of members of the committee, all documents are shared amongst the Committee by email, and weekly conference calls are held to discuss projects and make decisions. A master summary table is maintained and shared amongst the committee members; this lists each project and each contact with the particular youth partner, and is updated weekly.

With the exception of Lindsey who has been working full-time on Youth Visioning since November 2005, the other committee members are also involved in a number of other coastal and small islands initiatives including Small Islands Voice, Sandwatch and the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. Thus missions to countries undertaken in the course of these different initiatives can be maximized to include visits with Youth Visioning partners. For instance Gillian was able to visit Youth Visioning partners in Dominica and the Maldives within the last 6-months, and Lindsey has visited partners in Samoa and Tonga. Colleagues in the UNESCO field offices are also called upon to visit ongoing or planned Youth Visioning projects during their missions and they have been very cooperative in this regard.

The coordination of Phase 3 of Youth Visioning has proved to be a very time-consuming process with several weeks of correspondence needed to finalize the development of each proposal received from the youth. Communication with the youth project leaders is mainly by email but also by phone as required. Project leaders must supply detailed work plans and budgets before any agreement to provide support is finalized. Activity financing contracts for the Caribbean and AIMS regions are issued from UNESCO Headquarters, while all Pacific contracts are made by the UNESCO Office for the Pacific in Samoa. All contracts follow a standard format whereby the activities, awareness-raising, evaluation and reporting components of the project are itemized. In keeping with the objective of Youth Visioning to encourage sustainable activities, all contracts also include an item on investigating ways to repeat the activities in the future with local support.

Despite the challenges of working in a de-centralized team and guiding young people through the project development process, this methodology has proved successful.

3. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Please see the attached Project Status Summary Table (Annex 2). This table is divided into three sections:

- Projects completed
- Projects underway
- Projects planned.

Projects Completed

As indicated in the attached table, eight projects have been completed since February 2005. It is clear that the projects in the Caribbean and the AIMS regions outnumber the projects completed in the Pacific. This can be attributed to the fact that many of the Pacific youth participants who came to Mauritius left their islands for studies abroad shortly after returning home and therefore new project leaders had to be identified. Furthermore, the Caribbean and AIMS regions had significantly more youth representatives in Mauritius than the Pacific region.

In terms of the Youth Visioning themes, *Life and love in islands* (island lifestyle and culture) has proved the most common with four projects: Cape Verde, Mauritius, Singapore and Dominica (Revitalising the Creole culture) all falling under this theme. The project in Fiji can also be categorized under this same theme, though activities planned during the Youth Parliament Alumni event also address environmental issues. Two projects: community clean-up in Dominica and the construction of a playground with environmental interpretive centres in Jamaica both fall under the theme of *My island home* (safeguarding island environments). The project in Antigua and Barbuda is the sole completed project that addresses employment issues under the theme *Money in my pocket*.

With regards to the sustainability of the completed projects, it is worth noting that, with the exception of Jamaica where the project had to be completed by a local non-governmental organization (NGO), since the youth participant left the island for further studies, all of the other project leaders have secured or are exploring local support in order to continue their activities.



Led by **Qadir Mahamoodally** [far right], the Savanne Regional Youth Council (SRYC) gathered 35 youth volunteers to help plan a day of games and activities for 80 disabled youths in Mauritius. The project was deemed a big success creating interest in arranging similar activities in the future.



Marvo-Didier Samuel organised a project to sensitize the village of Gutter (Dominica) on their improper garbage disposal habits and to assist them to play their role in keeping it clean. Activities included cleaning up a ravine, heavy garbage day and a children's workshop.



Through the Association Djunta Mõ Pa Tchada Grande and a number of local partners, **Lourenço Andrade** organised a successful HIV/AIDS awareness campaign in Cape Verde. The activities revolved around soccer and basketball tournaments that were followed by a conference on HIV/AIDS.

Projects Underway

There are currently seven projects underway and while the Pacific had been slower to implement projects following the Mauritius meeting, there are now three projects ongoing in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Tonga and the Solomon Islands respectively.

As with the completed projects, the projects underway largely fall under the theme of *Life and love in islands* (five projects). The exceptions are the projects in the Seychelles and in Haiti. The activities in the Seychelles fall under *Money in my pocket* and the activities in Haiti focus on environmental education and tree planting and therefore relate to the theme of *My island home*.

Within the five *Life and love in islands* projects underway there is a good deal of diversity in the activities as this is a very broad theme. It is important to note that two projects involve activities to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS - St Lucia and the Solomon Islands. HIV/AIDS was a priority issue identified by participants from all regions at the Mauritius meeting.



Kennedy Folasi is leading a talented group of youths to dramatize the issues affecting young people in the communities around Honiara, Solomon Islands. Their goal is to promote active participation of youths in their communities and to bring awareness of social issues affecting young people.

Projects Being Developed

There are eighteen projects currently being developed. Project proposals have been received, and interest has been expressed by the Youth Visioning Committee, and assistance is now being given to the project leaders to further develop their proposals.

Of these projects, six fall under *My island home*, four under *Money in my pocket* and eight under *Life and love in islands*. Nine projects are being developed in the Caribbean, six in the Pacific and three in the AIMS region.

Four contracts are about to be issued for Pacific islands, which should help to bring that region on an equal footing with the other two regions.

Of special note is the Creole exchange project being developed between Seychelles and Dominica. The idea for this project came about following an article (<http://www.sivvyouth.org/?read=3>) with username *view* and password *only*) posted on the Small Islands Voice Youth Internet Forum about the success of the Youth Visioning Creole project implemented in Dominica. Students in the Seychelles saw this article and started a

dialogue, in the course of which Dominica expressed interest in exchanging ideas on celebrating and promoting Creole culture (<http://www.sivyouth.org/?read=50> with username *view* and password *only*). The proposal for an exchange that would allow youth from each country to experience the Creole celebrations held in the other country is taking shape. National cultural organizations and Small Islands Voice partners have expressed their support for this initiative. Youth Visioning will cover the travel costs of one young person from each country to experience the Creole celebrations in the partner country on the understanding that in-country costs will be covered by local organizations involved.



Ebonie Fifita and her youth group, 'On the Spot', have created a radio program to inform the young people of Tonga and the entire community about the Millennium Development Goals and how these goals specifically relate to the Pacific region and what action can be taken to help achieve these goals.



Project Funds Spent and Committed to Date

Please see the attached table of Project Funds Spent and Committed to Date (Annex 3).

Besides the funds from the Lighthouse Foundation, US \$28,000 has been received from UNAIDS for HIV/AIDS projects to be carried out in 2006-2007. Therefore the table in Annex 3 shows funds spent on projects with a HIV/AIDS focus in a separate column. Thanks to this targeted funding, proposals for HIV/AIDS activities up to US\$ 4,000 are being considered.

For Youth Visioning projects that focus on other issues, the upper limit of funding is US \$3000. The majority of the projects being funded have received support in the \$2000-\$3000 range, with the exception of a few projects where the budget has been less than \$2000. In the case of the Seychelles-Dominica exchange, US \$6000 has been committed to cover the travel costs of two young people (one from Dominica to Seychelles and vice versa).

The fact that Singapore received only US\$900 for their intergenerational activities can be attributed to the submission of a small-scale project proposal directly after the Mauritius meeting when the extent of available funding was uncertain.

4. NETWORKING AND AWARENESS

Website

Though the collaboration with the youth-led NGO TakingITGlobal (TIG) was beneficial during Phases 1 and 2 of Youth Visioning, presenting the activities of Phase 3 in a clear, coherent manner was proving difficult within the constraints of the standard TIG project webpage. Therefore, in November-December of 2005 the Youth Visioning website was reorganized and re-designed.

In creating a new website it was important to build a consistent branding for Youth Visioning for Island Living. Thus the domain name www.youthvisioning.org was registered, and www.islandyouth.org re-directs to this name; a logo was also created.

The new site allows for one project to be featured on the front page, along with a latest news column and for all other Youth Visioning information to be easily arranged in four broad categories:

- About Youth Visioning
- Preparation
- Youth Visioning Meeting
- Youth Visioning Follow-up Projects

Sub-categories appear directly on the front page to facilitate the user's access to particular information. Each project has its own page with full project information, photos, documents to download and progress reports. The project pages are updated as new information becomes available and the front page is updated approximately every month with latest news items added a few times each month.

An email was sent out to the Youth Visioning network on 27 January 2006 announcing the launch of the new website and positive feedback was received:

'Congratulations on the new website. I surfed on it a bit and found it especially informative.'
– Maria Helena Henriques Mueller, Chief, UNESCO Section for Youth

'It's really a great pleasure to hear of some achievements of other friends (representatives of some other islands) relating to their commitment.'
-Ibne Mahmaud, Youth Visioning participant from Mauritius

Newsletter

In a further effort to strengthen the Youth Visioning network and ensure that both the youth and other partners are informed of ongoing project developments, an electronic newsletter was launched in April 2006. Each edition of this newsletter, which is issued every other month, features two completed projects and one ongoing project, in addition to a message from the Youth Visioning Committee and a call for new proposals. Summarized information on the featured projects is provided along with photos and quotations from the project leaders. The newsletter information is always linked to the Youth Visioning website where more detailed information is available. There have been two editions of the newsletter to date – May/June 2006 and recently, July/August 2006.

The newsletter is sent out electronically to the Youth Visioning network and to other UNESCO-Coasts and Small Islands mailing lists.

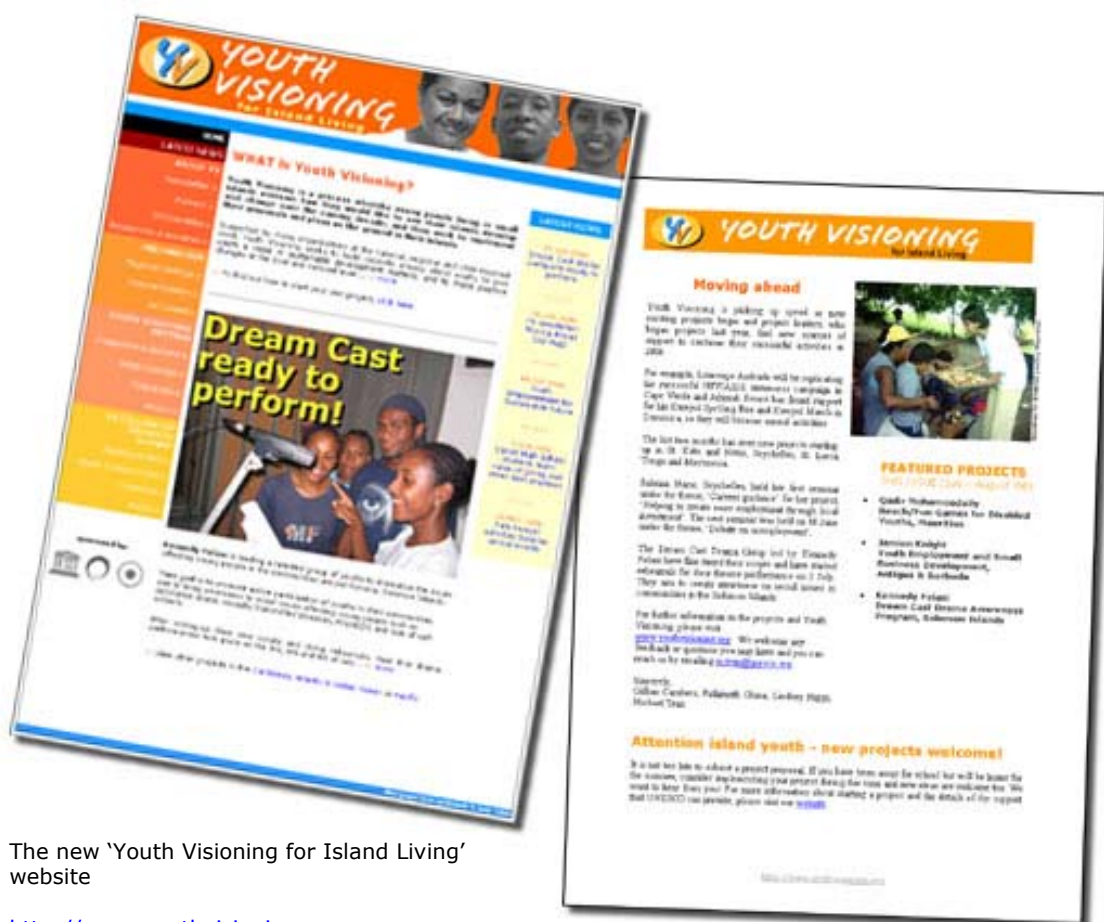
Feedback on the newsletter has been positive and includes the following comments:

'Thank you so much for keeping me up to date. I am glad to know through your newsletter what other Islanders are doing to improve their lives.'
-Mohamed Muombwa, Tanzania

'I just want to thank you for your effort and heart in making a difference or helping us small islands to help ourselves by giving us a hand and a push to start somewhere, somehow, despite all the odds.'
-Linda Hartman, Caribbean

Brochure

A 4-page Youth Visioning brochure was prepared in October 2005 and distributed widely



The new 'Youth Visioning for Island Living' website

<http://www.youthvisioning.org>

YV newsletter

5. EVALUATION AND THE WAY FORWARD

A year and a half into the project implementation phase the number of projects completed, underway and in development is satisfactory and, thanks to the support of our partners, there are available resources to support a number of new projects in the coming months. As indicated previously with regards to the table of funds spent and committed to date, additional funding from UNAIDS has been received. A funding commitment of approximately US \$10,000 has been made by the UNESCO Section for Youth, which has been a partner in this initiative since the beginning. The additional funding that has been secured is indicative of the confidence of partner organizations in the Youth Visioning process.

While linkages have been formed with a number of youth, particularly in the Pacific, who were not previously involved in Youth Visioning or whose countries were not represented in Mauritius, in the future it is planned to devote specific efforts towards those countries that were present in Mauritius but from which project proposals have not yet been received.

With the goal of increasing inter-regional activities as well as sustainability, it is planned to maximize the benefits of the Youth Visioning projects by linking projects with similar activities, such as the Creole revitalisation exchange between Seychelles and Dominica, and the islands undertaking HIV/AIDS activities. A few countries have requested additional funding after a first project has been completed. These requests are carefully considered individually in light of the overall goal to ensure sustainability and continuation of the first round of activities. For example, a second proposal is awaited from Antigua and Barbuda that would encompass some workshops that would build upon the creation of their entrepreneurial website.

In regards to the project implementation phase, there have been a number of lessons learnt since February 2005:

- The coordination of the projects, including proposal development assistance, project evaluation and monitoring, has proved to be a huge time commitment requiring weekly committee discussions in addition to extensive email and phone communication with the youth and Youth Visioning partners.
- Many countries selected academically gifted students as their delegates to the Mauritius meeting, and many of these youth have since left their islands to study abroad, thereby creating a vacuum as regards the implementation of Youth Visioning activities. This is despite the fact that in the preparation for the Mauritius meeting, emphasis was placed on the fact that youth delegates selected must be in a position to implement a follow-up project on their return home. In these cases, considerable time has had to be spent in identifying and engaging new youth partners.
- In almost all cases, it has been found that the youth implementing the projects have no experience with designing, implementing, reporting on and evaluating a project. They also are rarely familiar with the technicalities involved in entering into a contract. Youth Visioning therefore becomes a massive capacity-building exercise and this is undoubtedly one of the most important outcomes of the Youth Visioning initiative.
- In order to effectively promote the Youth Visioning projects through the website and newsletter, as well as through potential future publications, it was realized quite early on that digital photographs and unedited video footage were needed. The inclusion of these items is now standard in all contracts.

- Maximizing the impact of this initiative is key and with the photos and video footage that is being collected from each project, the potential is there to develop a video that will showcase the work being done by the youth and will also inspire other young people living in small islands to realise their own 'island vision'.



Jamion Knight and his partner organisations launched the website Pan De Move with the aim of assisting young people in Antigua and Barbuda to set up their own small businesses.

<http://www.pandemove.com>



6. CONCLUDING COMMENTS

The project implementation phase of Youth Visioning continues to be a learning experience for both the Committee and the young people involved as project leaders. Recognition of the initial success of Phase 3 can be seen in the additional financial support received from other partners and, most importantly, in the growing number of youth-led projects underway around the world.

The support of the Lighthouse Foundation has and continues to be crucial to the success of Youth Visioning.

'We thank you for your commitment to this initiative and look forward to keeping you informed of the ongoing project implementation phase.'

Gillian Cambers, Fathimath Ghina, Lindsey Higgs, Michael Tran

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

Criteria for Evaluation of Youth Visioning for Island Living Proposals

1. In view of the main objective of Youth Visioning for Island Living (YV), which is to build capacity in the design, planning and implementation of sustainable development activities among youth, the person or group submitting and implementing the project should be a young person(s) under 25-years.
2. Preference is given to those young people involved in Phases 1 and 2 of YV.
3. In exceptional cases, proposals are accepted from government agencies responsible for youth, although this is a last resort when other avenues have failed.
4. For school-aged youth (13-18 years), proposals are accepted from teachers or principals.
5. Proposals must be for on-the-ground activities in the proponent's island. Applications for attending conferences are not accepted.
6. Proposals must fit clearly into one of the three themes: 'Life and love in islands, My island home, or Money in my pocket.
7. Proposals must come from youth living/resident in Small Island Developing States or island territories, and preference is given to proposals coming from outer islands of archipelagic states.
8. Proponents are asked to complete a project application form and budget, and projects must be implemented within a 12-month period, maximum budget per project is approximately US\$3,000.
9. In evaluating projects, the following points are carefully analysed by the YV Committee:
 - Is the project one that is clearly being conducted by the youth themselves
 - Are there clearly defined and achievable activities (funding is not available for salaries)
 - Does the project fit with the objectives and themes of YV and are there any possible links with other YV activities
 - Have other YV projects been funded in this island

ANNEX 2

Project Status Summary Table (June 2006)

PROJECTS COMPLETED

Island	Project	Time Frame	Long-term Sustainability
AIMS			
Cape Verde	Raising awareness of HIV/AIDS through sport	August 2005 – February 2006	Partners plan to repeat activities in 2006 on their own
Mauritius	Integrating disabled youth into society	October 2005 – March 2006	Further activities being planned
Singapore	Intergenerational celebration of Chinese New Year	February 2005- May 2005	Further activities being planned
CARIBBEAN			
Antigua & Barbuda	Creation of a website with information for aspiring young entrepreneurs	September 2005 – March 2006	Local support being sought to continue activities
Dominica	Clean-up and waste management campaign in one village	July 2005 – January 2006	Further activities being planned
Dominica	Promotion of the Creole language through classes and cultural activities	August 2005 – February 2006	Local support has been secured to continue activities
Jamaica	Construction of a playground with environmental interpretive stations	September 2005 – February 2006	Youth leader left island, project was completed by NGO
PACIFIC			
Fiji	Establishment of Youth Parliament Alumni and commitment to 3 youth campaigns	September 2005 – February 2006	Future projects have been identified and committed to by Alumni group

PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Island	Project	Time Frame
AIMS		
Seychelles	Helping to create more youth employment through increased local investment	March 2006 – February 2007
CARIBBEAN		
Haiti	Environmental education through tree-planting and clean-up competitions	June 2006 – June 2007
St. Kitts and Nevis	Organization of a youth camp for underprivileged students with a commitment to volunteer projects	May 2006 – January 2007
St Lucia	HIV/AIDS awareness through a panel discussion and jingle competition	June 2006 – March 2007
PACIFIC		
Federated States of Micronesia	Promotion of national pride and unity through a poster competition	March 2006 – September 2006
Solomon Islands	Education through drama about HIV/AIDS, drugs, alcohol	March 2006 – September 2006
Tonga	Series of radio programs on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	March 2006 – September 2006

PROJECTS BEING DEVELOPED

Island	Project	Status
AIMS		
Madagascar	Environmental education and planning in a village	Detailed proposal being prepared
Maldives	Address youth unemployment through workshops on career options	Proposal being prepared
Seychelles-Dominica	Exchange to share information on celebrating and teaching Creole language and customs	Detailed proposal being prepared and groups in both countries are in communication
CARIBBEAN		
Bahamas	Youth Talk – peer counselling on health and social issues	Waiting for updated project information
Bahamas	Restoring village well	Waiting for updated project information
Barbados	Promoting youth micro-enterprise	Project leaders asked to put project planning on hold until the summer
British Virgin Islands	Education on healthy lifestyle choices	Project leader asked to put project planning on hold until the summer
Dominican Republic	Youth employment workshops	Waiting for updated project information
Grenada	Re-forestation after the hurricanes	Project leader asked to put project planning on hold until the summer
St Vincent and the Grenadines	Beach protection and conservation	Waiting for updated project information
Trinidad and Tobago	Beach protection and conservation	Waiting for updated project information
Turks and Caicos Islands	Raising awareness about HIV/AIDS	Waiting for updated information on implementing group
PACIFIC		
Tokelau	Outrigger canoe education and activities	New project leader has been identified, waiting for updated information
Papua New Guinea	Fish farming to sell fish in local markets	Project proposal being finalized with YV Committee
Papua New Guinea	Documentation of cultural practices and production of information booklets	Project proposal being finalized with YV Committee
Samoa	Teaching the performing art of the fire-knife dance	Project proposal being finalized with YV Committee
Samoa	Young people helping the needy and elderly – clean-ups and clothing and food donation	Project proposal being finalized with YV Committee
Vanuatu	Environmental education and rubbish pit digging	Project proposal being finalized with YV Committee

ANNEX 3

Project Funds Spent and Committed to Date (June 2006)

Country	Project	YV Funds (US\$)	HIV/AIDS Funds (US\$)
Funds Already Spent			
Dominica 1	Clean-up in Gutter Village	2250	
Antigua & Barbuda	Youth employment	2500	
Cape Verde	Young People against HIV/AIDS		1900
Dominica 2	Parle Creole	2000	
Fiji	Training youth leaders	1900	
Jamaica	Environmental education	2500	
Mauritius	Integration of disabled youth	1600	
Singapore	Intergenerational activities	900	
Total		13,650	1,900
Funds Committed (Contracts underway/issued)			
FSM	Unity and national pride	2300	
Haiti	Tree planting, clean-ups	3200	
Samoa	Youth volunteering with needy	2000	
Samoa	Fire-knife dance workshops	3000	
Seychelles	Youth employment	2000	
Seychelles-Dominica	Creole exchange	6000	
Solomon Islands	Awareness raising through drama	3300	
St Kitts	Youth camp/training	3500	
St Lucia	HIV/AIDS awareness		4000
Tokelau	Canoe outrigger day	2000	
Tonga	Radio show on MDGs	2000	
Total		29,300	4,000
CURRENT TOTAL		42,950	5,900
COMBINED TOTAL US\$ 48,850			