YOUTH CHALLENGE GUYANA

Date established | November 30, 1990
Date and type of registration
Primary contact person | Simone Sills, HIV/AIDS Programme Manager
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Secondary contact person | Dmitri Nicholson
Address, telephone and email | Same as above
Number of active members | 8
Number of paid staff | 7 Full Time; 5 Part time
Number of regular volunteers | 40+
Estimated annual budget
Main sources of funding | USAID, CIDA, UNICEF International Alliance Partners
Geographic scope of activity | All 10 administrative regions

Mission or primary goal of your organization:
To facilitate the development of youth and communities in Guyana through meeting the challenges of work, social action and cultural exchange.

Main subject areas of activity or programmes

- Economic/income generation
- HIV/AIDS
- Culture and art
- Counselling
- Employment
- Health
- Education/training
- Environment
- Student/youth issues
- Poverty reduction
- Inter - Cultural Sensitivity

Major projects in last two years, including current projects

Project #1 Name | Rural Women’s Skills & Networking Conferences – Region # 9.
GOAL: | To Acquire Greater Social, Economic and institutional empowerment for women through increased income opportunities, decision-making and collective mobilization.
Start date | August, 2003
End date | May, 2004
Main activities
The activities covered over a five days duration comprised of workshops on the following subject areas.
Health
Health and Hygiene, HIV /AIDS/STI’s, Teen Pregnancy & Family Planning
Catering and Food Services
Catering for a function or a group, Unique and new cooking ideas based on local food supplies, and Healthy diet planning

Sewing and Tailoring
Cutting patterns, Machine repair and maintenance, Embroidery and Sewing new designs

Women In Small Business
How to run a small business, How to apply for funding, Strategic planning and Successful networking

Empowerment of Women
Women’s Rights, Domestic Violence, Gender Issues, Empowerment, Leadership skills, Conflict resolution and Effective communication

Main source(s) of funding
CIDA Gender Equality Program

Project theme or sector
Empowerment of Rural women

Project partners
Youth Challenge International (YCC, YCG, YCA) and CIDA

Geographic scope
Region # 9: South Pakaraimas, North Rupununi, Deep South, Wai Wai, South Central, Central Rupununi

Results of Project
Six Sub District Conferences were held over the past four and a half months in the six sub-districts. Two hundred and eighty participants benefited from knowledge and skills imparted by trained professionals in the different subject areas. (Health Issues, Catering and food services, Sewing and Tailoring, Small Business Management and Issues related to Gender and Development). Those topics were well received by the participants. These six sub-district conferences will now feed into a Regional Conference enabling participants/groups to showcase their new skills & techniques by facilitating workshop sessions, teaching skills and other activities.

Project #2 Name
HIV/AIDS Project

Goal
To develop and implement awareness and prevention strategies in a collaborative manner to reduce the incidences of HIV/AIDS/STI within Guyana. YCG

Start date
June 2000

End date
August 2004

Main activities
- Training of Peer Educators and Trainers of Peer Educators
- Providing Care and Support for PLWHA’s in Georgetown
- Implementing of Major Events to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and sensitisation
- Work with CBO’s in region 1, 2 and 8 to deliver skills training and confidence workshops while focusing on HIV/AIDS prevention
- Implement anti-stigma campaign in 4 secondary schools Parent workshops
- Work with CSW’s and Gold Miners to promote HIV awareness
- Advocacy

Main source(s) of funding
USAID

Project theme or sector
“Ready Body” Is It “Really Ready”

Project partners
NAPS, USAID, Artiste In Direct Support, Comforting Hearts, GRPA, Hope Foundation, Life Line Counselling Services, Linden care Foundation, The Network of Guyanese Living with HIV/AIDS, Volunteer Youth Corp, Regional
Geographic scope

Results of Project

- Expansion of project from one to three administrative regions
- Increased number of active peer educators in regions 1, 2 and 8
- Increased number of persons accessing services from YCG
- Expanded audiences from youths to parents, CSW’s, Gold Miners, PLWA’s, children orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS

Project #3 Name/Goal

Start date: August 2002
End date: March 2003

Main activities

1. To empower youths to experience quality life and attain their full potential through the provision of Life Skills education programs
2. To educate teens on the transmission of HIV/STI
3. To work with parents and teachers to support Youth Programs in their communities
4. To sustain existing initiatives aimed at reaching underserved groups including CSWs, truckers, miners, and speed boat drivers with HIV prevention services
5. To actively involve the media to capture and broadcast on television, radio, and in the print media YCG’s collective response to HIV/AIDS

Main source(s) of funding: UNICEF
Project theme or sector: Youth Life Skills
Project partners: The Regional Bodies, Parents and businesses of Regions 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9.

Geographic scope: Regions 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9

Results of Project

- The media was actively involved to provide full media coverage for all activities of the Life Skills Development Project
- The project sustained existing initiatives aimed at reaching underserved groups including commercial sex workers (CSW), truckers, miners, and speedboat drivers with HIV prevention services.
- Over 1500 young people are educated on HIV/AIDS/STI prevention information
- Youth from regions 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9 successfully planned and implemented their own HIV/AIDS prevention and behaviour change education strategies to their communities
- Youth Networks are formed with young people between regions 1, 3, 8 and 9
- Youth of Regions 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9 are actively involved in voluntary activities in their home and surrounding communities
Major projects planned for at least next two years

Project #1 Name/Goal
- Expand HIV/IADS Programme to include VCT
- Citizenship Programme
- Expansion of Women’s Development programme

Start date: April 2004
End date: April 2005

Main activities
- Training
- Counselling
- Providing Hampers
- Removal of Blood samples for HIV testing
- Providing referral services
- Youth Exchanges
- Women’s Economic Initiatives
- Youth Internships
- Youth and Women’s Networking Conferences

Main source(s) of funding: To be announced
Project theme or sector: Make a Connection
Project partners: Same as Above
Geographic scope: Regions, 1, 2, 4, 8, 9

Results of Project:

Networking

What other NGOs would you like to share information with or collaborate with in your activities?
1. Hope for ALL (Essequibo)
2. GAPSW – Guyana Association of Professional Social Workers