

DFID's emerging approach to youth exclusion



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Policy context

- Current ministerial priorities: economic growth and conflict/fragile states
- Policy Paper: *Addressing poverty through tackling social exclusion* (2005) – focuses on discrimination on basis of identity
- Other policies: HIV and AIDS, Education
- *Gender Equality Action Plan 2007-2010*



Recent/on-going activities

- Research – *Young Lives*
- Support to international NGOs
- Children and Youth NGO Network 2007
- Youth mapping study (2007)
- Analytical work on education/skills
- Country programme examples:
 - Sierra Leone: governance, peer education, employment
 - Youth radio in Afghanistan and Indonesia
 - Nigeria: peer education programme on HIV



Forward priorities

- Policy Briefings and Guidance for Country Offices, on:
 - Youth participation
 - Youth, jobs and inclusive growth
 - Youth, violence, conflict and fragile states

- *Young women and young men;
young people of different social
identities*



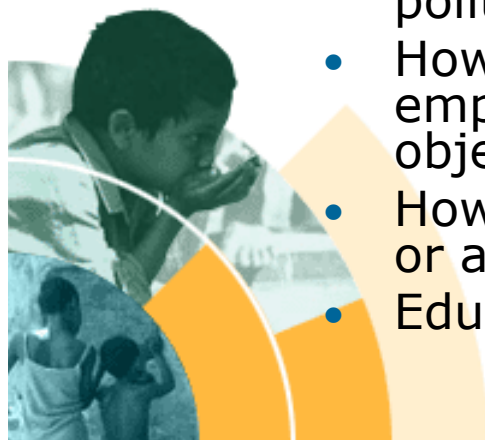
Youth participation

- Guidance for donor agencies on how to engage with young people, on:
 - Governance, voice and accountability
 - Post-conflict transitions and youth civic participation
 - Sexual and reproductive health, HIV and AIDS



Youth, jobs and inclusive growth

- When does/can a 'youth bulge' support economic growth and when is it a threat?
- Missing link between youth employment and economic growth strategies?
- How can growth strategies and private sector development strategies address youth unemployment effectively?
- How to address youth unemployment where there is no growth?
- Links between youth unemployment, social exclusion and political marginalisation?
- What determines whether youth unemployment is a political priority for governments?
- How can donors and governments support youth employment to meet social and political and economic objectives?
- How can donors address youth unemployment in conflict or armed violence situations?
- Education and skills – have we got it wrong?



Youth exclusion, violence, conflict and fragile states

- How does the exclusion of young people play out in conflict and armed violence? What are the links between status, disenfranchisement, unemployment, identity, honour and violence? And how does this play out in relation to gender?
- What triggers young people to turn to violence? (perceptions and reality)
- How can youth be mobilised to contribute positively in development and conflict resolution?
- How to make non-violent employment attractive to youth?
- What are the links between youth, conflict, violence and migration?
- How are these issues addressed by governments?
- Can youth needs, rights, grievances, violence in conflict, post-conflict, fragile, violent but non-conflict states be understood through one lens/framework?



Young people's frustration that they can't get jobs, resulting lack of positive prospects and sense of inequality and grievance, may lead to social tensions and violence - which would also undermine any economic growth processes

Jobs and Growth

Young people find they can't access the labour market because employers seem to prefer others for the few jobs available, and they have little political power to influence policy. So they are excluded from contributing to and benefiting from growth

Young men and women

Conflict and violence

Exclusion and politics

Young people, or some groups of young people, are excluded from political processes because older people have higher status/more power. They may resort to violence out of frustration and lack of other ways for their voices and grievances to be heard



Your feedback welcome!

Thank you.

