

World Bank
2007 World Development Report – “Development and Next Generation”
Consultation Meeting
December 24, 2005

Background:

On December 24, 2005, Youth Voices Group at the World Bank Tbilisi Office held a consultation meeting around the draft 2007 World Development Report - Development and Next Generation with the representatives of youth organizations and other stakeholders working on youth issues in Georgia. The goal of the meeting was to familiarize the participants with 2 chapters of the 2007 WDR – Education and Employment and get their feedback as to what could be changed or added to the draft report to better reflect the needs of youth in the given two areas.

The meeting was held in the conference room of the World Bank Tbilisi Office and lasted from 11:00 a.m. to 15:00 p.m. Upon completion of the meeting the participants were invited for lunch, which together with food offered possibilities of informal cooperation between the invitees and the Youth Voices group members.

Agenda:

11:00 – 11:15	Welcoming remarks. Explanation of the goal of the meeting, its objectives and expected outcomes. Introduction of participants
11:15 – 11:30	Presentation: Harnessing the Power of Youth
11:30 – 11:45	Presentation: Youth Voices Georgia
11:45 – 12:00	Q & A
12:00 – 12:15	Presentation: General overview of the draft 2007 WDR
12:15 – 12:30	Q & A
12:30 – 12:45	Presentation: Youth and education (Progressing through school) by 2007 WDR
12:45 – 13:30	Discussion
13:30 – 13:45	Presentation: Youth and employment (Going to work) by 2007 WDR
13:45 – 14:30	Discussion

14:30 – 15:00

Wrap Up and Lunch break (continuation of the discussion on a non-formal basis)

Participants:

The meeting was attended by a total of 19 participants, including the representatives from the WB Tbilisi Office, Youth Voices Group, Student’s Union, youth NGOs, international organizations, etc.

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10.	Shota Maglakelidze	1. Chairman; 2. Board Member; 3. Coordinator	1. Children’s Federation; 2. Union “Juvenco”; 3. Children’s and Youth Parliament	(995 32) 301775, 302253; 899 901507 shoge7@yahoo.com ; juvencoyouth@yahoo.com
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18.	Maiko Toklikishvili	Member	Youth Voices	899 271828 maikotok@yahoo.com
19.	Lina Jikia	1. Member; 2. Chairman; 3. Fundraiser	1. Youth Voices; 2. NGO “New Generation for Georgia”; 3. Scouts Movement of Georgia	899 517658 linajikia@yahoo.com

Methodology:

It should be noted that the Georgian translation of two chapters of the draft 2007 WDR, namely the ones referring to Going to School and Finding a Job were sent to the participants several days prior to the meeting together with the invitation letters in order to familiarize them with the topics of discussion before the actual meeting. All the participants eventually mentioned that it was very useful to be having the materials translated and distributed to them beforehand as it better prepared them for the meeting and thus enhanced their participation.

Presentations made during the first half of the meeting included sessions for questions and answers. The second half of the meeting was spent on presentations of the actual 2 topics and the participants’ comments, suggestions and recommendations.

Participants’ Comments, Suggestions, Recommendations:

World Bank and Youth Voices Group:

The participants expressed great interest in the work of the World Bank in Georgia and specifically in the Youth Voices group. There were established professional and personal contacts between the YVG members and the invitees and they agreed to cooperate in the future and invite each other to their events. Youth Voices Group plans to keep in touch with participants and is investigating possibilities to collaborate with them on a number of youth projects.

Youth and Education:

- Often there are cases in Georgia when students at secondary/high schools (especially at higher classes) tend to miss classes. One of the reasons of this is that teachers can not provide information on the given subject that would be of interest to the students. It is known that students do not miss classes of those teachers/lecturers who have interesting classes and use modern teaching methodologies that help students acquire given information more easily and apply it to real life.
- Teachers and lecturers need to be re-trained and get familiar with modern teaching standards and methodologies.
- Teachers and lecturers need to be better paid to be more stimulated. Currently in Georgia these people have very low salaries and practically work on voluntary bases.
- Private institutions of tertiary education have highly qualified and western educated teachers, but these institutions are not affordable for any layer of population, except of those exceptionally rich people.
- The education system in Georgia although provides substantial theoretical knowledge does not provide any practical skills and experience. Eventually students who graduate from high schools/universities have certain knowledge, but they can not use it in practice since they lack necessary skills.
- Books and other teaching materials are old styled and do not meet the requirements of Georgia in the XXI century.
- There is a huge lack of information among the youth in Georgia, especially in the regions, regarding the education possibilities in country and abroad. There should be created a strategy to fill this gap, say there should be created information centers within the schools that would provide such information to the students. This would include information about technical schools, institutes, professional training courses on specific topics, scholarships, assistantships, etc.
- Youth should develop decision making skills so that they could make their own decisions. Filling the information gap (noted above) would definitely be an important supporting factor.
- There should be special programs developed and implemented for those youth who for certain reasons were left out of school.
- Special attention should be made to support non-formal education.
- Education should be a priority in the country.
- The poor youth should be getting increased subsidies.
- Quality education should be available for everybody, since it is a crucial element for any person in becoming competitive in finding a job. It is well known that finding a proper job without a proper education is almost impossible.
- Getting education should also become available for socially unprotected people.
- Special attention should be paid to educate youth in the regions and isolated areas.
- It is important to create goal-oriented programs on planning of free time of young people. NGOs and community organizations could play a key role in administering these programs throughout the country.
- Youth should participate in the development of education policy.

- In Georgian reality the “second chance” concept is very important, since due to the civil war in country and other constraining factors, certain category of youth were unable to attend schools and these people need to be given a chance to get skills and knowledge and find a job. There are currently no programs in Georgia that would give people such a chance, although such a chance would greatly chance the future of these people. However, as noted by one of the participants, there was implemented one project which aimed to support 1200 Georgian women in getting some computer and English language skills as well as provided them with possibility to choose subjects of their interest and get trained on those ones.

note: all the participants unanimously agreed on the importance of the “second chance” institute.

Youth and Employment:

- There are no gender related problems in regard to youth employment in Georgia, although it is harder for men than for a woman to find a job.
- There are no work places to employ newly graduates and youth in general in Georgia.
- Although majority of Georgian youth go to school (drop-out rate is very low) and get secondary education (in large cities youth generally get higher education as well), these young people are still noncompetitive and do not meet the requirements of the employer. This is due to the fact that teachers of secondary schools and lecturers of higher institutions can not provide skills and knowledge that would be applicable to Georgia’s reality today. Most of them teach with the same books using the same methodology as during the Soviet Union, although the demand now is very different as to what was 10-20 years ago.
- Majority of youth in Georgia do now realize that the key factor of their success in finding proper jobs lies in themselves.
- There should be special programs designed and implemented to support employment of disabled youth.

Budget:

The only expense associated with the administration of this event was lunch provided to the participants at the end of the meeting. The total budget of the event therefore was around \$210.