

**Report of the
World Development Report 2007
Kenya Country Consultations.**

Nairobi, Kenya, 14th November 2005

CONTENTS

1. Background of the consultations.....	1
2. Opening of the consultations.....	1
3. Expectations.....	2
4. Discussions and recommendations from the participants.....	3
Theme 1: Going to school.....	3
Theme 2: Staying healthy.....	5
Theme 3: Finding a job.....	6
Theme 4: Leaving home, starting a family.....	6
Theme 5: Being a citizen.....	7
5. Theme 6: Youth in a globalized world.....	8
6. Comments by the Country Director.....	8
Annex I. List of participants.....	9
Annex II. Agenda of the consultations.....	18

1. Background to the consultations

1. The World Development Report 2007 consultation was held in Nairobi, Kenya on the 14th of November 2005. The one day consultation was organized by the Kenya Public Information Centre staff, Keziah Muthoni Muthembwa and Jennifer Akinyi Asego.
2. The World Development report is a World Bank document that is published each year. The primary goal of the report is to advance knowledge in a particular topic related to development and lead to more and better work being done in that area in developing countries and countries in transition.
3. World Development Report 2007 is on “Development and the next generation.” It is about young people and their contributions to developing their countries. As this report is about the youth, the World Development Report Team wanted to know about the youth situation and the challenges they face every day. They wanted to learn from the youth what actions they are taking in order to make a difference and what they expect from policy makers to help them do that.
4. The World Bank Kenya country office hosted 70 young people as part of the ongoing country level consultations on the World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation. Youth actively participated in the consultation / workshop whose primary objective was to allow Bank country staff to engage with young people in a format that advanced the Bank’s work within the country and provided feedback / input to the World Development Report 2007 team.
5. The consultation resulted in a wealth of information on the ideas, opinions and aspirations of young Kenya people. Consulting with youth contributed to the World Development Report 2007 in three ways:
 1. Dialogue: Acted as a forum to continue the dialogue between the World Bank and youth civil society.
 2. Information: Provided the World Development Report team with feedback on the World Development Report outline and information about young people’s opinions, challenges and activities.
 3. Traction: The consultations created sustained interest in the World Development Report.
6. The consultation was attended by 6 World Bank staff, the media, and youth drawn from disabled young people, young women, low-income youth, rural areas youth, university students and adolescents. See Annex I

2. Opening of the consultation

7. In her welcoming remarks, Keziah Muthembwa, Public Information Associate, expressed her appreciation to the youth, Mr. John Randa, Senior Economist and Nyambura Githagui, Senior Social Development Specialist for accepting the invitation to participate in the consultations.

She introduced the facilitators Douglas Arege and Tabitha Njoroge, students from the University of Nairobi and the rapporteur Jennifer Asego, from the Public Information Centre and pointed out the importance of the consultations.

8. The participants also introduced themselves.

9. John Randa started off by giving an overview of the World Bank and the World Development Report. He cited country specific programmes the World Bank is involved with here in Kenya. Nyambura Githagui gave an overview of the World Bank's agenda on children and youth, giving specific programmes the World Bank is involved in with regards to youth issues. She emphasized the importance of the Millennium Development Goals, indicating the commitment of the World Bank to promote human development as the key to sustaining social and economic progress in all countries.

10. Dr. Githagui elaborated on the comprehensive equitable growth and poverty reduction strategy, which is based on four pillars of creating opportunities, social institutional empowerment, capacity building and social protection. In this respect, youth were important target group for whom economic and social problems should be addressed adequately. She also mentioned the Economic Sector Work report the bank had compiled from a study done on the youth in Kenya.

11. This was followed by a question and answer session.

3. Expectations

12. The participants were asked to state their expectations for the meeting. The youth expected to have had the following questions answered by the end of the day.

- How can the World Bank support the creation and strengthening of independent youth structures?
- What are the youth entitlements and rights and how can the World Bank help the youth achieve these rights?
- How do the youth make their leaders accountable?
- What is the World Bank's definition of youth?
- How can the World Bank fund special education programmes?
- How are the youth going to benefit from the World Development Report 2007?
- How can the World Bank assist in the area of ICT and the youth?
- How do we involve the society in youth activities and programmes?
- How does the World Development Report get down to the people in the grass roots?
- How can the youth unite and achieve a poverty free world?
- In terms of health awareness and advocacy, how can the World Bank fund projects in line with HIV/Aids advocacy?
- How can the World Bank assist the visual disabled to buy assistive technologies e.g. screen readers?
- What is the World Bank doing on matters relating to unemployment and job seeking among the youth?
- Can the World Bank fund youth who want to venture into the private sector?

- What are the youth going to draw from World Development Report 2007 pertaining to citizenship issues?
- What is the World Bank doing on Millennium Development Goal number 8?

13. The participants also listed the following targets which they hoped should have been realized by the end of the consultations:

- The World Bank should help create role models for the youth to emulate.
- Identify various youth needs for the different youth groups, e.g. youth with disability, and youth from semi-urban areas etc.
- Be able to implement the issues discussed.
- Youth should think outside the box and empower other youth and the World Bank should assist in providing resources and skills to help meet this goal.
- Know reasons as to why World Bank is focusing on youth now and what will happen after the World Development Report 2007.
- World Bank to compel the government to focus on youth programmes.
- Youth should be involved in country negotiations.
- Youth should be empowered to take initiative.
- Youth should recognize that they are a social force.
- Youth should have made a strong case for themselves in letting their voices heard.
- Youth should come up with a game plan on how they are going to solve the problems that affect them.
- Youth should come up with mechanisms to share information.
- Youth to explore practical ways to be involved in programmes and make government accountable.
- Came up with ways on how youth can utilize sports to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.
- Youth should come up with realistic practical solutions on matters affecting them.

4. Discussions and recommendations from participants

14. The discussions were structured around five life-changing transitions being researched in the *World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation*. Areas of discussion were: education; healthful lifestyle; work; family formation; citizenship; and overarching themes, such as global culture and migration. After rigorous focus group discussions on the six themes for the World Development Report 2007, the participants suggested the following:

5. Group 1: Going to school

15. The participants looked at the Kenyan education system and agreed that it does not cope with the demands of those who are leaving primary school in unprecedented numbers. This has big implications for access to secondary and higher education. The participants agreed that the curriculum does not serve to empower the young people to be creative and innovative and hence there was need to strengthen vocational training.

Report of the World Development Report 2007 Kenya Country Consultations
Nairobi, 14 November 2005

They decried the fact that the Kenyan education system was academic and hence lacks the efficacy of addressing a large number of youth needs. They said that the system should be dynamic and flexible taking into consideration early school drop outs who would like to engage in skills development.

16. At the primary level the following were cited as reasons as to why there are still some children out of school:

- Disinterested parents
- Social /cultural structures and expectations
- Poverty
- Gender discrimination
- Accessibility /Geographic barriers
- Lack of /insufficient infrastructure
- Insecurity

17. At the secondary level, these were reasons as to why youth were out of school:

- Cut – off points are too high
- Poverty
- Lack of infrastructure, no expansion policies
- Cultural Barriers-early marriages
- Early pregnancies
- Peer influence, Drug abuse and addiction
- Poor governance/corruption/tribalism, discrimination
- Rural-urban disparities - Equality/fairness lacking
- Ad-hoc implementation of policies e.g. upgrading universities
- Quota-system
- Environmental influences
- Frustration
- Sanitary provisions especially for girls

18. Group 1 members found out that the curriculum was irrelevant to the actual needs and should balance academic and vocational subjects. They expressed their concern on the elimination of subjects which were most important to the youth e.g. music and agriculture.

19. On the issue of school drop outs the following were recommendations by group 1 members:

- Provide possibilities to re-enter the school process
- Distance learning
- Use of ICTs
- Introduce non-formal programmes
- Flexible timetables
- Encourage early specialization

20. They listed the following as solutions to the problems youth face with regards to education and going to school:

- Adopt curriculum relevant tailored to suit individual /societal needs
- Emphasize individual development
- Access to resources like bursaries, scholarships
- Learning opportunities as you work
- Night classes
- Redress thought –specialisation, flexible timetable
- Practical, sports oriented subjects should be emphasized
- Improve school environment

21. With regards to going to school and persons with disabilities the following solutions were highlighted:

- Curriculum developed for learners at all levels
- Improvement of infrastructure at academic institutions to fit mobility of physical /visually impaired
- Provide access to adaptable technology in educational institutions for both hearing and visually impaired- computers
- Public awareness on disability and their education needs
- Provide/translate information to Braille, sign language
- General integration and inclusion of disable persons in the society

6. Group 2: Staying Healthy

22. The participants agreed that young people in Kenya are today exposed to a myriad of health problems which need to be addressed if the generation is to be safeguarded. They identified reasons why young people adopt risky lifestyles and poverty came top as a mop consequence. HIV/AIDS, drug abuse, and violence were noted as key issues that are emerging among Kenyan youth and are wrecking havoc.

23. The participants agreed that the government should adopt better policies in addressing the core problems and not the symptoms. Programs should be designed to keep young people off the streets where these vices are rampant. They agreed that there are no policies and programs that are youth friendly to address their problems and thus deter them from engaging in crime and other vices.

24. These were recommendations from group 2 members on the above topic:

- Youth should be given access to accurate and relevant information
- There is a lot of focus on HIV/AIDS at the expense of other ailments like malaria, cancer, diabetes etc.
- The information provided on health should be relevant to behavioral trends and youth life styles
- Youth should be empowered to negotiate for prevention
- Introduction of alternate activities and lifestyles-based programs

- Youth should be given access to care /services
- The quality of service provision should be improved
- The policy and programs require meaningful involvement
- Youth should be included in policy development, implementation and evaluation
- Budgetary provisions for youth- based health programs

7. Group 3: Finding a job

25. The participants agreed that young people in Kenya are distraught in terms of job and entrepreneurial opportunities. There lacks a government youth employment policy which would guide and help youth access employment opportunities. Decisions on what skills are important, which jobs to take have broad implications for them as well as society more generally. The major challenges include: lack of experience that is demanded by employees, lack of mentorship and support programs to enhance skills. The current education system and policies do not prepare young people well for the job market rendering them ineffective, thus make them less competitive.

26. Finding a job was difficult according to group 3 members due to the following reasons:

- Lack of job experience
- Government policies
- Few jobs / large labor force
- Salary packages
- Corruption
- Few job opportunities
- Lack of Information

27. The following were their recommendations:

- Give youth information and advice on how to do business
- Review of business set up processes
- Access to credit facilities
- Invest in informal sector
- Create jobs for the disabled

8. Group 4: Leaving home, starting a family

28. The age at which young people marry is affected by access to education and employment. In Kenya we have instances of early marriages, which affects the growth, and development of youth. This exposes the youth into taking of early responsibilities, which they might not be ready and experienced to handle. The welfare and health of young people more so girls are affected due to this. Early marriage spells doom for the children because they end up being like their parents. The youth do not have experience in parenting skills and so might not give the best care. Single parenthood is bound to occur, leading into many unmarried girls who cannot support families. The participants agreed that young unmarried mothers and young people with families should be supported through special programs that support to empower them.

29. On the issue of leaving home and starting a family group 4 members came up with the following:

- a. There is a very close association between leaving home, starting a household and marrying.
- b. One's livelihood prospects are very important on determining whether or when to marry.
- c. People might wait a bit longer to marry or start having children if they have greater access to advanced education or employment, especially men.
- d. There's relative importance of parents on one's decision to marry and having children
- e. Those who are occupied /well engaged marry a little later than those who are more or less idle
- f. If already married or have children the following services would make it easier to stay in school or work.
 - Day care centers
 - Kindergartens
 - Longer maternity leaves
 - Access to Loans
 - Information access
- g. Very important to have easy access to information about reproductive health , and child care in making married people [young] better and able to continue to develop themselves through schools or career development.
 - For health living
 - Family planning
 - Early killer disease detection and no enough information especially rural areas
 - Ignorance high.
 - The following were not as not being highlighted:
 - Family violence
 - Family/marriage counseling
 - Wife inheritance, polygamy, divorce etc.

9. Group 5: Being a citizen

30. Young people begin to be empowered outside the home through a variety of experiences: they vote, participate in community life, and perform national service. In Kenya today over 60 per cent of the population is composed of youth and they have a critical role to play in leadership and governance. The participants agreed that young people should be involved in decision-making and given leadership opportunities to empower them. The youth said that the energy and determination of young Kenyans could be harnessed and invested in achieving the country's development goals. Obstacles include lack of resources, ignorance and dismissals by the old guards in leadership. The youth recommended that there be youth friendly political rules to put many youth into platforms of leadership and governance. The issue of violence to achieve certain goals was hotly debated with some staying that non-violence is the only true and better ways of addressing problems. Whereas others said revolutions make change and hence need for violence where dialogue cannot work. Many said they had illusions on the government because it staggers in addressing the developmental issues. But others said they had hope because the government and achieved in addressing some national concerns and the MDGs like free primary education, rebuilding infrastructure and checking corruption. Kenyan youth have problems immigrating and working anywhere and this denies them intercultural experiences, this need to be addressed

- Group 5 members said that they wished they could participate in political and social life by being actively involved in the country's politics.
- They felt that their voices matter but are ignored by leaders as they are not included in policy matters.
- Most of them participated in youth groups and they are important in their lives as they are able to share their different life experiences in these youth groups.

10. Group 6: Youth in a globalized world

31. The recommendations from the discussions of the above topic are listed below:

- a. Government documents e.g. passports; Identity cards should be made more accessible to the youth.
- b. Cost of visas expensive, wasteful and non-interactive.
- c. Discrimination among young persons who are willing to travel.
- d. Ensure fair treatment of all: Immigration by youth should be viewed as resourceful and not opportunistic.
- e. Easy access to consulates services and more professionalism.
- f. International policies : they should encourage youth development and growth
- g. Standards and requirements [fair for employment among all nations.]
- h. Enforcing policies that govern employment of expatriates.
- i. Development aid should not be tied to conditionalities favoring foreigners to take our local jobs.
- j. Multilaterals should engage young people in the development of their policies and criteria especially in youth development.
- k. The poor people are marginalized and hardly secure opportunities to migrate.
- l. Harmony within education systems to march the global needs and standards.

11. Comments by the County Director

32. At its closing session, the Country Director expressed his appreciation and gratitude to all participants for their involvement in the consultations and highlighted the Banks commitment to working with the youth thus ensuring their inclusion in the development of the country.

Annex II. Agenda of the Workshop

World Development Report 2007 Country Consultations

14th November 2005

World Bank Office, Hill Park Towers, Upper Hill

Agenda

9:00- 9:15 a.m	Registration
9:15 a.m - 9:45 a.m	Overview of the day Shades Classics dance “Freedom is coming tomorrow” <i>An initial welcoming session outlining the background, aims and expected results of the meeting, Jennifer Asego and Arege</i>
9:45 a.m to 11:00a.m	World Bank Youth Agenda <i>Overview of the Bank and the World Development Report, John Randa, Economist, World Bank</i> <i>Overview of the World Bank children and youth agenda, Nyambura Githagui, Snr Social Development Specialist</i> <i>Discussion Q&A Keziah Muthembwa</i>
11:00a.m – 11:30 a.m	Break
11:30 a.m – 1:00 p.m	WDR 2007 Presentation Shades Classics Poem “Arise for development’s sake” <i>Overview of the five transitions young people go through and around which the World Development Report is organized Douglas Arege / Tabitha Njoroge</i> <i>Discussion</i>
1:00 p.m - 2:00 p.m	Lunch

Report of the World Development Report 2007 Kenya Country Consultations
Nairobi, 14 November 2005

2:00 p.m – 2:45 p.m

*Group discussions on the five transitions of the
World Development Report*
Shades Classics Poem “**Ukiwaona Wao**”

2:45 p.m -3:00 p.m

Break

3:00 p.m – 4:00 p.m

*Report out on discussion of themes/ focus area and
wrap up*
Shades Classics poem “**Arise For Development’s
sake**”
Comments by the **Country Director**