

JEUGDONTWIKKELING | YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

DESAROYO DI HUBENTUT

BAN KREA NOS FUTURO



ACTION PROGRAM YOUTH DEVELOPMENT 2015-2020

INTRODUCTION

It is often said: “the youth is our future.” But do young people also know that we believe in them? That we believe that they will help us realize a positive future? That they have the necessary skills to develop themselves to become strong citizens?

Under the auspices of the National Platform Youth Development, an Action Program Youth Development has been adopted which provides a general framework to support the youth in their development, so our island can look forward to a positive future.

This Action Program has been widely accepted by the government, the private sector, NGOs, and youth themselves. Only by working together we can guarantee that our youth get the education they deserve, live in good health, enjoy a safe and pleasant environment, and get the opportunity to develop their own identity.

Together with the Secretariat Youth Development, the National Platform for Youth Development will decisively proceed from a basis of cooperation to facilitate policymaking and sustainable projects that can actually realize youth development.

The puzzle for youth development already exists. With the above components we need to continue fitting the pieces together so our youth can experience a positive development.

I believe in our youth, do you?

President National Platform for Youth Development
Daniël Corsen Jr.

WHY AN ACTION PROGRAM YOUTH DEVELOPMENT?

The Action Program offers a strong framework to realize positive youth development on Curaçao and stipulates the most important priorities for the period 2015-2020. The primary goal is to stimulate the best possible development potential of children and youth and prevent them from dropping out or ending up in risk situations. The Action Program resulted from a participatory process, based on the involvement of youth themselves, but also from NGOs working with youth, the private sector, and various government ministries.

THEMATIC AREAS

The Action Program has five substantive themes that relate to the total area of youth development. Within the Action Program, the present situation and available data are highlighted per theme and priorities and activities for the future are stipulated to increase the opportunities for children and youth.

TARGET GROUPS

Although the Action Program is explicitly aimed at all children and youth between the ages of 0 - 24, it is recognized that within this general target group some youth deserve special attention. These target groups are vulnerable groups that, without extra attention, have less chances to develop themselves in a positive manner; 0 - 4 year olds, physically or mentally challenged youth, mildly intellectually challenged youth, adolescents (13 - 17 year olds), and sexually diverse youth (LGBT).

PRINCIPLES

The Action Program is based on three principles:

- 1 The Action Program is **evidence-based**. Projects and activities are chosen based on facts (research) and are always coordinated with the actual experiences and needs of the organizations that work with children and youth, and youth themselves.
- 2 The Action Program is **cooperative**. By actively and creatively realizing cooperation between ministries, organizations that work with children and youth, and youth themselves, more and better results can be achieved.
- 3 The Action Program promotes **sustainability**. We search for opportunities to continue or expand successful activities and projects and improve the implementation capacity within the government and organizations that work with children and youth.



EDUCATION AND CARE

With the introduction of the compulsory education requirement to the age of 18, the number of youth older than 15 attending school has increased significantly. Almost all children up to the age of 12 attend school. There is a great demand for extracurricular and/or after-school activities that offer an educational program for children in the afternoon. In recent years, much has been developed in the structure of childcare for the age group 0-4. Other than with after-school care service, a new subsidy system has been introduced, but adjustments are necessary to continue to uphold the quality.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Ensure quality improvement in education
- Increase number of youth that achieve basic qualifications
- Raise the average education level of the population
- Promote early childhood development
- Increase development opportunities for children and youth during after school hours

INTENDED RESULTS

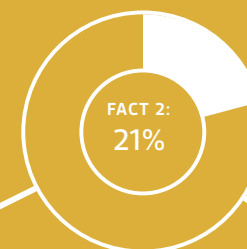
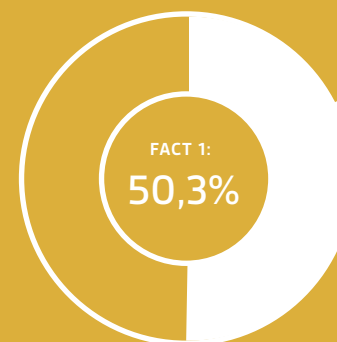
- Children and youth find education fun and appealing
- Education connects to 21st century skills
- Youth is involved with interpretation and organization of the education curriculum
- Atmosphere in schools is improved
- Teachers are motivated and enthusiastic
- Better fitting structure for education funding
- More insights into (backgrounds of) school dropouts
- Adequate guidance and care for youth in case of (impending) early school leaving
- Well-functioning care structure (both in and outside of school)
- Integrated approach to handle early school leaving
- More students continue on to HAVO/VWO¹
- Increased participation in pre-school education mainly by 3-year olds
- Improve childcare quality
- Expand the offer of after-school education (mainly for 12+)

1 VWO = university preparatory education. Source: <https://www.epnuffic.nl/en>



50,3% of all 0-4 year olds attend childcare. Quantity after-school care service for 12+ limited

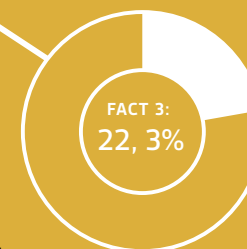
(CBS Census 2011, FAJ 2010)



21% continues from FO to HAVO²
(Min OWCS, 2011)

Dropouts 22,3% = 4.346 youth below the age of 24 have no basic qualification

(QDev 2014/CBS Census 2011)



2 FO Funderend Onderwijs = elementary education. HAVO Hoger Algemeen Voortgezet Onderwijs = high school.





ACTIVITIES

Youth organizations

- Adjust curriculum / course program towards project-based education with more stimuli and more interesting material
- Set up program for the digitization of education (use computers in the classroom, development of digital lesson materials, train and guide teachers, etc.)
- Set up active student councils per school
- Make school and classroom facilities more appealing
- Formulate and adopt usable, clear, and uniform definition for school dropouts
- Organize a single contact point for compulsory education and care, where schools immediately report (potential) dropouts and youth (and their parents) can get adequate care and guidance
- Tit-for-tat approach early school leaving – immediate suitable action after school leaving has been reported
- Expand guidance possibilities and student care within schools
- Realize cooperation and coordination between various initiatives aimed at prevention and an integrated approach early school leavers (SMAT, Kansen voor Jongeren, etc.)
- Realize more HAVO/VWO places in regular education
- Enable a longer education track from FO through VSBO to HAVO/VWO
- Realize sufficient and easy access by mothers/parents to high quality (subsidized) childcare
- Encourage compliance of the childcare quality ordinance
- Effective control system for quality of childcare
- Research integrating Scouting into after-school education

"Education needs to correspond with what youth are interested in and what engages them."

(Youth Consultation, march 2015)

Action program

- Organize youth dialogues with youth in schools
- In cooperation with Ministry of Education set up and execute baseline measurement digitization education situation in all participating schools
- Gather information about number of students / student councils and activity rates in secondary and vocational education
- Develop model pupil/student council
- In cooperation with Stichting 180/FDRS introduce pilot school TOPs!
- Initiate formulation clear and uniform definition school dropouts
- Initiate inter-ministerial single contact point compulsory education/early school leaving, where all students that (risk) dropout are reported
- Make inventory care and support provision accessible (social mapping)
- Share knowledge and support in writing (the necessary components of) a well-functioning care structure
- Assess available care and support provision for youth and identify gaps
- Call attention to adjust the childcare subsidy standard to realistic cost for good childcare

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING





The main focus in this thematic area is the creation of a healthy lifestyle and diet. There is an extremely high obesity rate on Curaçao which often already starts at a young age. Also in other areas there is relative high risk-taking among youth, for example in the area of sexuality. Inadequate sexual education plays a role here. Another subject within this theme is leisure activity. In the context of youth development, sports is considered to be extremely important. (Experts session youth and sports, 26 March 2015).

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Improve well-being of children and youth
- Healthy lifestyle

INTENDED RESULTS

- Best use of existing sport and community facilities
- Increase awareness of the influence of gender aspects
- Increase awareness of and use of role models
- Positive image of self and society among youth
- Increase parenting skills
- Professionalize youth care
- Availability structural care provision for mildly intellectually challenged youth
- Increase possibilities to tackle obesity
- Better view on health development of children and the possibility of early intervention
- Sports as a basic provision in elementary education
- Adequate sexual education

Age	Overweight children / adolescents <small>(MIN GMN / VIC 2013 / ESHUIS 2008)</small>
5 - 6 years	 1 in 10 children
10 - 11 years	 1 in 6 children
15 - 16 years	 1 in 4 adolescents
18 - 24 years	 1 in 2 adolescents

"The community center is not accessible and there are few activities."

(Youth dialogue, December 2014)

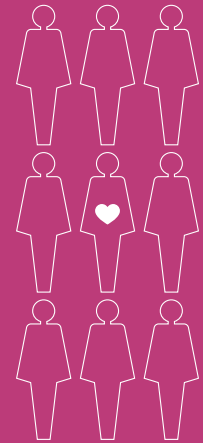
ACTIVITIES

Youth organizations

- Optimize use of existing sports and community facilities
- Organize various activities in the area of talent development
- Complete required steps to recognize obesity as chronic disease
- Restart periodic medical examination for age groups 6-12 and 12-18
- Develop and offer sports classes on all FO schools
- Specific offer of adequate sexual education for LGBT target group

Action program

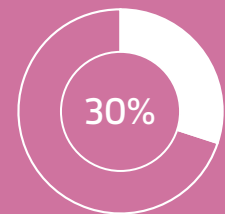
- In consultation with stakeholders assess sports and socio-cultural activities for children and youth per neighborhood
- Make activities accessible (by means of social map)
- Youth dialogues in neighborhoods to specify target group and needs
- Formulate advice based on results assessment and (youth) dialogues
- Assess possibilities for recognizing obesity as chronic disease
- Research willingness recognition obesity as chronic disease with relevant stakeholders (GMN)
- Discuss with stakeholder (GMN) about possibilities to restart periodic medical examination
- Support in the realization of information provision/conference LGBT target group



FACT 1

1 in 9 girls becomes a mother before the age of 20

(BOERSEMA 2012, BRINK 2011 AND HAMMER 2010)



FACT 2

30% eats vegetables or fruit on a daily basis

(MIN GMN / VIC / ESHUIS, 2008)

FACT 3

There is a negative image of society and a lack of real role models

(MARCHA, 2010)





“Jobs and functions are not described clearly and youth are required to choose for a profession much too early and without sufficient information.”

(Youth dialogue, Community Center Montaña, 16 May 2015)

Most job-seeking youth have a low level of education (SBO 1 or 2)

(KBB, Dare 2015)

In 2015 the youth unemployment rate was 29,7%

(CBS 2016)

FACT 3:

Higher educated youth remain in The Netherlands after their studies / Braindrain (Annually 150-300 youth with HAVO/VWO qualifications leave)

(KBB, Dare 2015)

FACT 2:
29,7%

FACT 1:

WORK AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Although a downward trend started in 2015, the high youth unemployment rate continues to stand out. The gap between the expectations of youth and those of employers appears to be difficult to bridge. Both don't seem to have a realistic idea of each other's capabilities and limitations. Good information is therefore essential. Both for youth being educated on Curaçao as well as for students that study abroad and experience difficulties getting a job if they wish to return. More attention should be paid to the connection from vocational education to the labor market where cooperation between school and business during the work-based learning program remains essential.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Increase employment opportunities for youth

INTENDED RESULTS

- Insights in target group and sector
- More young adults start their own business
- Youth choose education level, and profession based on honest and realistic information
- More demand-driven set-up of VSBO and SBO education
- Suitable opportunities for youth experiencing difficulties entering the regular labor market
- More youth return to Curaçao after completing their study abroad

ACTIVITIES

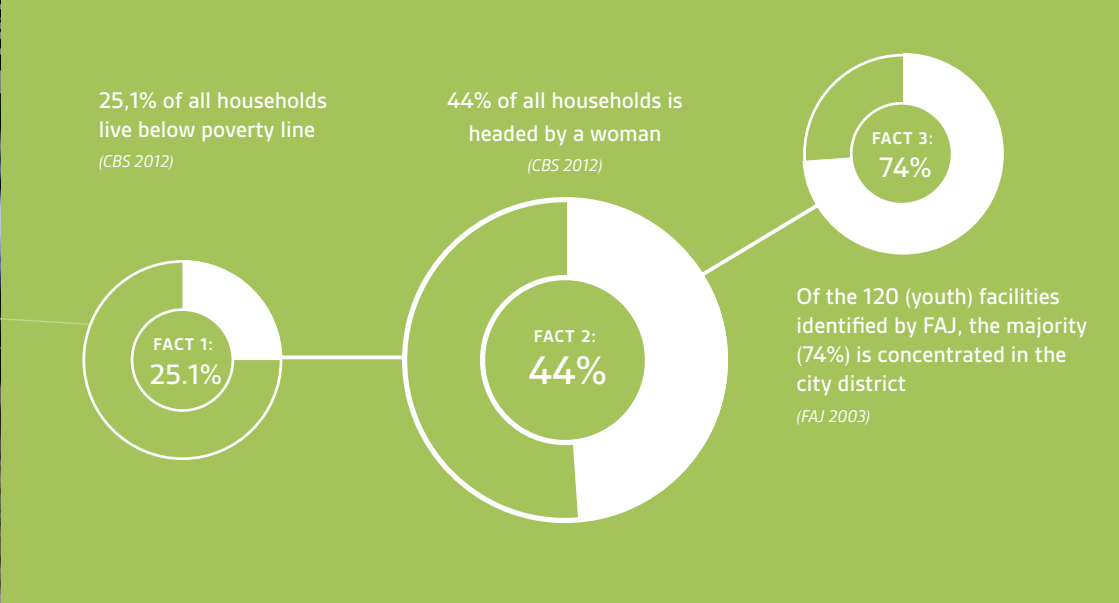
Youth organizations

- Acquire insight in target group and sector
- Promote independent entrepreneurship
- Create realistic image of labor market with youth
- Improve connection regular vocational education and labor market
- Organize work-study programs for youth experiencing difficulties entering the regular labor market
- Implement various incentives aimed at realizing return of youth after completing their study abroad

Action program

- Further specify target group unemployed youth
- Assess existing (subsidized) tracks
- Make (research) information available about target group and sector

- Encourage stakeholders to set up a pilot track entrepreneurship (with focus on attitude and practical skills)
- Provide target group with insights about which professions offer better chances on the labor market
- Inform schools about knowledge base and available research/information
- Formulate advice to ensure sustainability of KBB activities and products (Apprentice Trainers, BPV, etc.)
- Map existing work-study programs and detect any overlap and gaps
- Organize cooperation and coordination with all providers to reach a uniform intake through a single contact point for work-study programs
- Formulate advice for additional alternatives for target group for which there is no offer or insufficient availability (e.g. daytime activities)



HOUSING AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT

On Curaçao, there are considerable differences between neighborhoods. There are those where school dropouts, socio-economic living standards, and other problems are much more common than in other neighborhoods. The importance of attention to social cohesion is recognized on Curaçao from different perspectives. Support in achieving social cohesion is necessary. In addition, there is also a need for specific housing for young adults, in particular for those that find themselves in an unhealthy home environment and for whom alternative housing is an urgent necessity.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Improved livability and perception of safety for young adults in the neighborhoods.

INTENDED RESULTS

- Central point of contact for youth on neighborhood level
- Stronger parenting roles family, relatives, and neighborhood
- Availability suitable alternative housing for youth that cannot (any longer) live at home

ACTIVITIES

Youth organizations

- Set up social neighborhood team as proactive point of contact for youth with questions or concerns
- Increase sports and recreational activities for youth

Action program

- Map composition youth and their needs in the neighborhoods
- Map relevant funds and subsidies
- Gain knowledge about 'best practices' in connection with social neighborhood teams
- Select pilot neighborhood for social neighborhood team and execute needs assessment
- Action plan for development and program social neighborhood team in selected pilot neighborhood
- Support implementation activities social neighborhood team, including monitoring and evaluation
- Prepare cooperation model with 'sister neighborhoods' based on experience pilot neighborhood
- Gain knowledge about 'best practices' with respect to management and use of sports and recreational facilities in the neighborhoods
- Initiate, promote, and support development of policy for boarding school

"We want more harmony, better relations with community members, and generally more respectful relations."

(Youth Consultation, National Library, 24 March 2015)

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Young people make up a large proportion of those who come into contact with crime. Therefore, a juvenile probation function has recently been established again on the island since years. It is noted that in order to be able to work preventatively it is important to collect more data on the underlying factors. There is agreement on the fact that mildly intellectually challenged people are overrepresented within the judicial system (Bear, 2011). Another theme in the context of security is growing up safely. A large number of children and youth have to deal with child abuse, sexual abuse, and/or domestic violence in their lives.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Increased resilience among youth with regard to participation in crime
- Safer education situations at home for children

INTENDED RESULTS

- Realize well-working chain approach
- Be able to better anticipate to prevent juvenile crime
- Realize structural approach child abuse, sexual abuse, and domestic violence

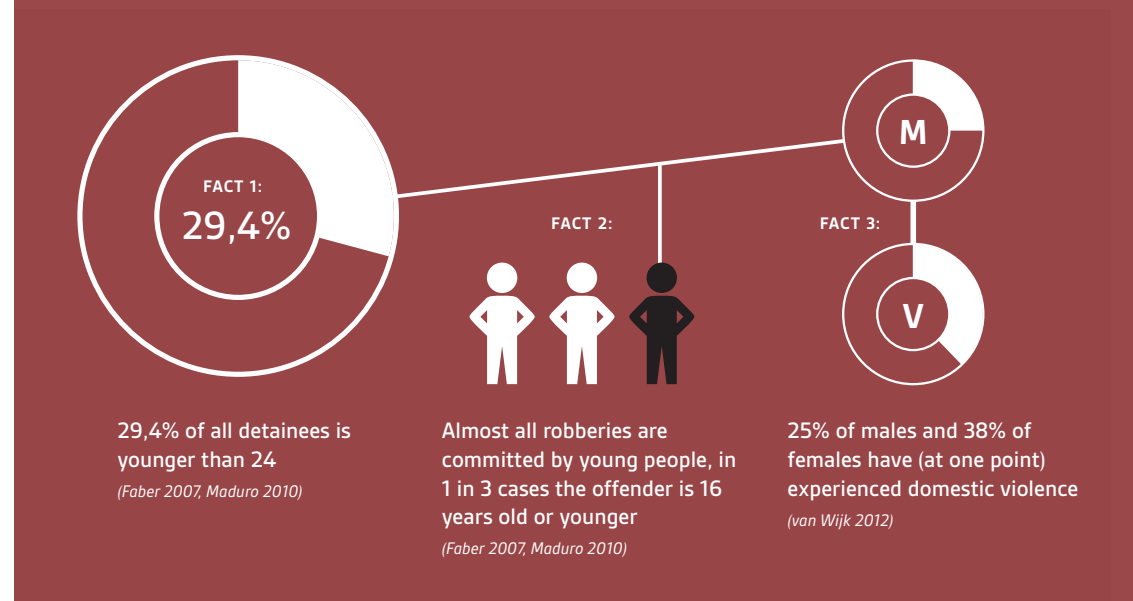
ACTIVITIES

Youth organizations

- Strengthen and expand pilot 'Tur Wowo Riba Bo' (All Eyes on You)
- Better knowledge about indicators and background juvenile crime
- Implement (part of) established alliance plan

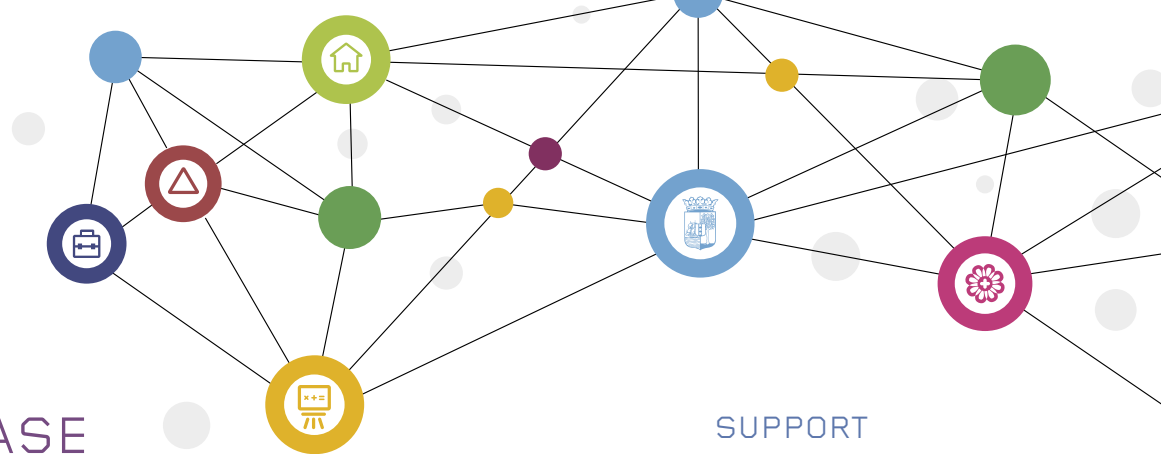
Action program

- Support cooperation between chain partners by means of stakeholder sessions
- Follow up on the results of research for indicators of juvenile crime on Curaçao
- Support the implementation of the alliance plan



"In addition to formal education, more attention is required for the development of norms and values amongst youth."

(Youth Consultation, National Library, 24 March 2015)



KNOWLEDGE BASE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Knowledge Base Youth Development main objectives are to collect knowledge about youth and to monitor youth development.

In short, the knowledge base Youth Development:

- Makes all existing research data, information, knowledge and information about youth development available.
- Is an initiative to establish a research agenda by making visible what is needed in the field of youth development.
- Gathers all research data investigated and presented by Action Program for Youth Development (a.o. research reports and fact-sheets).

INTENDED RESULTS

- Monitor youth development; action research aimed at realizing knowledge about the development of youth in five thematic areas, using the Developmental Assets Profile (DAP, Search Institute).
- Deepening knowledge of specific target groups; (0-4 year olds, physically or mentally disabled youth, mildly intellectually challenged youth (LVB), adolescents, and LGBT youth).
- Digital Knowledge Base Youth Development; make reports and data available regarding youth on Curaçao.

SUPPORT

In addition, we offer support in developing research projects (or internship assignments). Data and/or reports already present within a certain theme/target group are taken into account and any gaps are addressed.

DIGITAL SOCIAL MAP

The website of the Action Program Youth Development (www.desaroyodihubentut.cw) will include a digital social map. This map offers a current view of governmental services, foundations, and private non-profit organizations that are active on Curaçao and (also) targeted to children and youth between the ages of 0 to 24 and are classified according to the five thematic areas. Data about institutions working with youth are accessible to everyone and can easily be found on the social map.

By means of the knowledge base and social map, the Action Program Youth Development hopes to contribute in increasing knowledge about youth and the activities going on in the area of youth development.



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www.desaroyodihubentut.cw



ORGANIZATION

The implementation of the Action Program requires a new work method; a result oriented approach with focus on cooperation. This approach requires a decisive organization structure. For this the Platform Youth Development has been established and supported by a Secretariat Youth Development and Tiger Teams will operate within the five thematic areas. The National Platform and the Secretariat are jointly responsible for the implementation of the Action Program Youth Development, essentially by coordinating the common framework for youth development with the field, collecting data, making the complementarity clear between organizations and activities, and establishing a better connection between the various ministries and organizations.

NATIONAL PLATFORM YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The National Platform Youth Development has been given the task of monitoring the implementation of the Action Program as a sounding board and reports to the Ministerial Council. The platform consists of representatives of the government, NGO-representatives, and delegates from businesses and unions. Organizations represented in the Platform Youth Development are:

- **Ministry of General Affairs**
- **Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Sports**
- **Ministry of Justice**
- **Ministry of Social Development, Labor, and Welfare**
- **Ministry of Health, Environment, and Nature**
- **Business Association Curaçao (VBC)**
- **Chamber of Commerce**
- **Unions (SSK)**
- **Antillean Youth Federation (FAJ)**
- **Jeugdcentrale Curaçao (JCC)**
- **Bos di Hubentut**
- **Council of Churches**



SECRETARIAT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Secretariat Youth Development has an important coordinating and supporting role for the National Platform Youth Development. The Secretariat draws up strategic proposals and coordinates the implementation of the Action Program by means of activating and facilitating projects, managing the Knowledge Base Youth, organizing process guidance, and enhancing funding opportunities.

TIGER TEAMS

Per theme a project leader has been chosen to lead a Tiger Team which is also part of the Secretariat. Tiger Teams are mixed multi-stakeholder work-groups that work per theme in facilitating activities. The project leaders prepare proposals and present these to the field to reach concrete results.

By stimulating cooperation and catalyzing shifts new activities can be developed.


PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The Action Program Youth Development has various cost components, mainly for the activities within the five thematic areas. Funding organizations and the private sector have shown willingness to think along with the government and align their available resources for youth projects in this context. The Secretariat Youth Development will facilitate the best forum for coordination and organization in the coming period 2015-2020.

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