

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY  
AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN THE  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: An  
Emerging Experience


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WHEN  June 99 – April 2001

Who  DGPIJ (MOY) & the National  
Intersectoral Committee on Youth

Supported by  USAID – FOCUS/ALEPH

Where  3 Municipalities (Azua, La Romana and  
Santiago de los Caballeros)

What  3 pilot tests of an implementation  
model for the National  
Youth Policy at the local level

Dominican Republic Population

8.4 million

Teen pregnancy rate

112/1,000

# National Youth Policy

- Approved in January 1998
- Outlines policies in 7 priorities areas: Health; Culture; Education; Training and Employment; Social Participation; Legislation; and, Sports and Recreation.
- Outlines general strategies for carrying out the policy: emphasis on a decentralized approach, involving youth at all stages and collaboration across sectors.

A valuable tool, is all-inclusive and represents consensus: ambitious in some aspects and vague in others.



A Youth Law Enacted in August 2000

# What was the PROCESS?

## 1 SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

## 2 GRADUAL APPROACH, combining the HOW (structure) with the WHAT (actions)

- First Phase Emphasis on awareness; create interest among key actors; youth envisioning the future: **strategic thinking and planning.**

- Second Phase: Focus on actions; establish commitments with key players: **strategic actions.**

## 3 Providing seed money for Local Youth Initiative Fund

- Third Phase: **Implementing strategic actions.**



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# 1. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

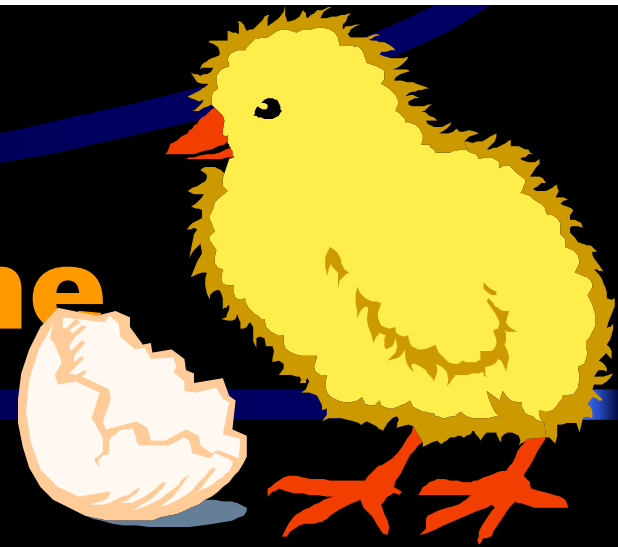
ACTORS: Players, roles and responsibilities.

PARTICIPATION SPACE: Mechanisms of and for youth and adolescent participation.

PROCEDURES AND INSTRUMENTS: to carry out the National Youth Policy at the local level.



## 2. Combining the HOW and WHAT



HOW: Formation of a local intersectorial committee

WHAT: Each local committee develop a three year strategic plan and a first year work plan.

**Two activities proceeded simultaneously rather than moving forward in discrete steps**

“The work planning process fed into the establishment and maturation of the local committees, and vice versa!”

# First Phase: Strategic thinking and Planning

Awareness, Create Interest, Commitment,

Discuss the Youth Policy with young people...



Then, Youth with other actors:

- Visualize the future from 2000 2003
- Prioritize sectors within the policy .
- Identify key players to carry out the policy

# Second Phase: Defining Strategic Actions

Take **ACTION**: First Year of Strategic Plan for Policy Implementation in each municipality

Starting from **context** analysis - **FODA**;

Creation of **coordination space(s)**;

**Establish commitments** with key players;

Prioritize actions for the **first six months**.

 Resource Management and Advocacy workshop

# WORKSHOP STRUCTURE



1st Day = FEELING (emotional intelligence; values; successful experiences; intuition; envisioning...)

2nd Day = THINKING (planning, but leaving behind the principle that planning is for experts ...)

3rd Day = PERFORMING

ARTICULATED THROUGH

MODULES  
WORKING IN GROUPS  
ENERGIZERS



# 3. Local Youth Initiatives Fund

OBJECTIVE: Give youth and local committees the means to implement Prioritized Strategic Actions

- Launch of Local Implementation Committees
- Young People s Film Festival
- Talks on Natural Resources
- Panel on Health Issues of Young People
- Health Week.
- Inventory of Health Information
- Promotional Talks in Schools
- Youth Committee and Youth Development Council (Consejos de Desarrollo Juvenil).



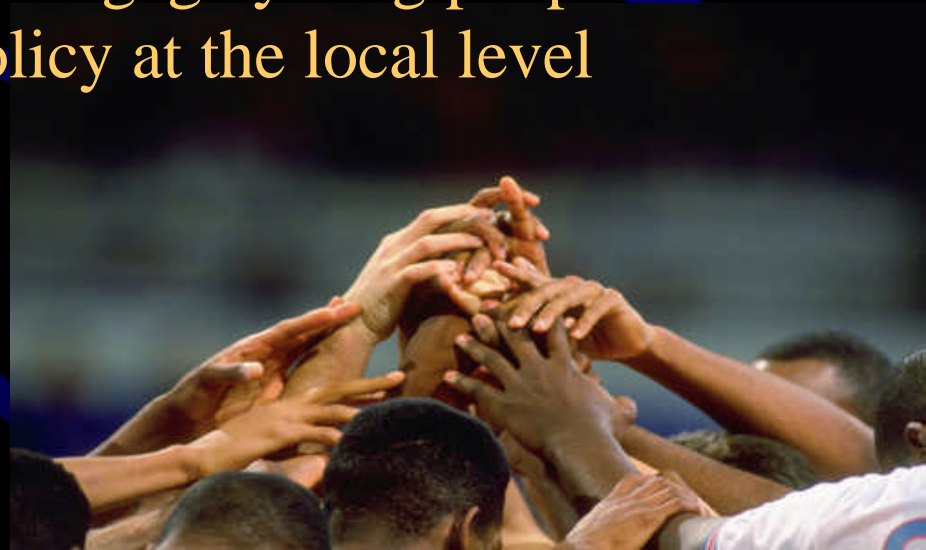
**Workshops on advocacy skills, leadership, management, and resource generation (US\$5,000/youth committee)**



# AND NOW ... A KEY QUESTION

What results have been achieved by  
this process?

Ability of the local committees to engage young people on the  
implementation of the policy at the local level





# TANGIBLE RESULTS

**3 Year Strategic Plans** to implement National Policy at local level

**Action Plans** for 1<sup>st</sup> Year of Strategic Plan

Definition of **coordination space** with participating players.

**Prioritized strategic actions** (Health and Education) to **strengthen coordination space**

Local Youth Initiative Fund included in the Youth Law enacted in August 2000



## INTANGIBLE RESULTS

Openness to spirit of team work, youth empowerment; attitude changes; group commitment from the individuals ...



# LESSONS LEARNED

- It is possible to have local, participatory youth planning. YES WE CAN.
- Planning is a MEANS, not an end; a means to encourage ATTITUDE change and to establish COMMITMENTS to undertake activities.
- Youth and adolescents are willing to assume commitments: there is a need to continue working much more on HOW and WITH WHAT at the implementation of actions and above all, MONITORING and EVALUATION.

# THE BIG CHALLENGE

- It is a process... CONTINUOUS.
- Diverse players: YOUNG people, godmothers-godfathers, ... private sector
- Multisectoral coordination ...
- Municipal – provincial linkage
- Coordinating local with national: municipality-province-country
- Broader concept of resources
- Monitoring and follow-up.