Supporting Developmental Leadership Among Youth in the Pacific

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• PLP focus on supporting those exercising developmental leadership: Women, CSOs, Youth (already supporting PYC & TNYC)
• Experiencing challenges in supporting youth:
  • membership is transient, voluntary
  • complex developmental period
  • different backgrounds – dropouts, tertiary & vocational students, vulnerable groups
Pacific Leadership Program

• 2010 PLP survey with partners – where are tomorrow’s leaders today? how best can we support them?
  • church, given structure, embedded in communities
• PLP hosted the Pacific Youth Forum where young people agreed that Youth Employment was a key issue for young people.
Pacific Youth Council

Back to the question: Where are tomorrow’s leaders today? One PLP-supported, youth-led initiative to exercise developmental leadership

• Youth Employment Advocacy:
  • led by young people
  • connected to champions - influential, in strategic positions
  • supported by donor and development actors
  • clear objective
  • recognised need for evidence base

• Needed a tailored support system, beyond straightforward training:
  • accompaniment and mentoring
  • robust relationship with donor
  • strategic advisory and networking support
Successes

- recognition of youth issues at regional fora:
  - YEA & Forum Leaders Meeting
  - PYDF & SPC
- amplified youth voice
- increased coordination with development actors – ADB research workshop, UNPRAC, Evidence based youth policies
Lessons Learnt

• invest in building an evidence base to support the exercise of leadership for young people
• you can’t be everything to everyone - focus on one key issue
• PLP support to young people combines a number of elements:
  • accompaniment and mentoring
  • building and maintaining robust relationships with partners
  • strategic advisory and networking support
  • scholarships – GUA
  • training – MANGO etc
  • asking difficult questions, being a critical friend ← robust relationship
ONGOING CHALLENGES

• Is support to young people a box ticking exercise or does it truly serve the interests of young people?
• Commitment by Leaders – budget support, national recognition, coordination with youth actors
• Sustainability & Support
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