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# Supporting Developmental Leadership Among Youth in the Pacific

Pacific Update, 18-19 July, 2016  
Peni Tawake - Pacific Leadership Program  
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# Pacific Leadership Program

- 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



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# 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.



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# 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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# VINAKA VAKALEVU



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