



# **YOUTH MAINSTREAMING IN PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT: Challenges and Opportunities**

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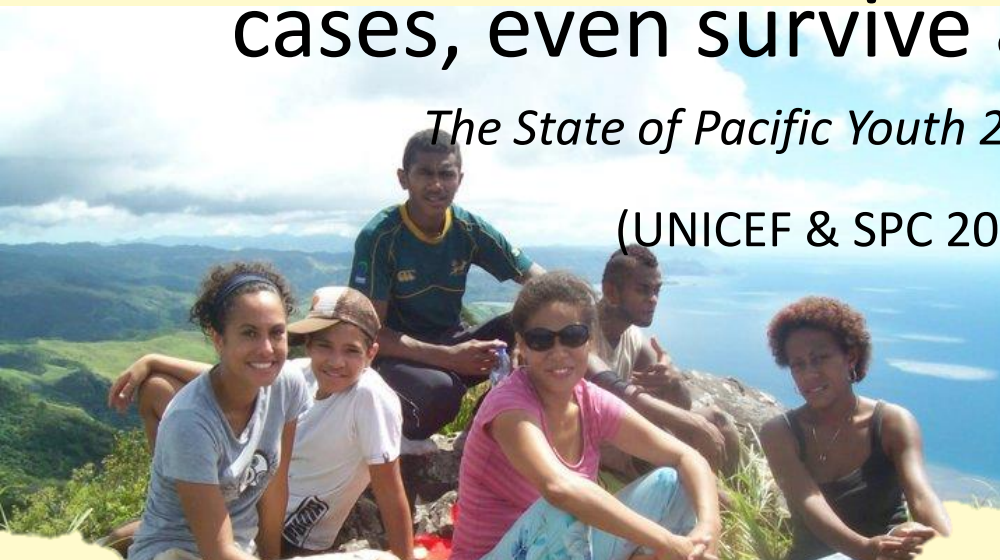
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“Without a major investment in young people, they may well flounder as a generation, undermining the capacity of Pacific Island countries and territories to escape aid dependence, develop economically and, in some cases, even survive as viable societies”

*The State of Pacific Youth 2011: Opportunities and Obstacles*

(UNICEF & SPC 2011, 5)



“Young people are the innovators, creators, builders and leaders of the future. But they can transform the future only if they have skills, health, decision-making, and real choices in life”

Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin,  
Executive Director, UNFPA,  
November 2014



# Key Texts on Youth in the Pacific

- *State of the Pacific Youth Report 2005* (UNICEF Pacific et al 2005) and 2011 (UNICEF & SPC 2011),
- *Giving South Pacific Youth a Voice: Youth development through participation* (World Bank 2008),
- *Pacific Youth Strategy 2010* (SPC 2006)
- *Koror Statement on Youth Empowerment for a Secure, Prosperous and Sustainable Future* (SPC 2005)
- *The Suva Declaration* (SPC 2009)
- *Pacific Youth Charter* (World Bank 2006)
- *Tofamamao Pacific 2015: Declaration of the Pacific Youth Summit for MDGs* (UNDP et al 2005)
- *Declaration: Youth Visioning for Island Living 2005* (UNESCO 2005).
- *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UN 1989)





“Perhaps the biggest issue facing youth in many of these Pacific nations is the fear – and reality – of finding themselves marginalised and voiceless”

*Giving South Pacific Youth a Voice*  
(World Bank 2008, 10)



# Youth Mainstreaming

“a strategy for making young women’s and young men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so young women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender-informed youth equality.”



# Youth Mainstreaming

Key components of youth mainstreaming in the Pacific:

- a flexible, culturally-informed definition of youth
- a positive attitude and organisational culture towards youth
- youth participation
- addressing gender equality
- addressing other significant issues for youth
- partnership and alignment with youth policies and youth declarations



“I went to the Ministry of Labour to talk about youth employment and they said “Oh you need to go to the Department of Youth” and I’m like “Well, no, I’m talking about employment”. And that came up all the way around and in every country it’s like that and departments of youth in every government are the lowest priority government ministry or department, they don’t get many resources [...] it simply has to be done in other sectors”

- Interviewee, regional organisation, Suva





# Recommendations

- Seek knowledge about and train staff on youth.
- Include youth in existing programmes.
- Collaborate with other agencies and share best practice.
- Encourage partner organisations to mainstream youth.
- Consult prominent youth organisations.
- Build relationships with communities before trying to implement projects that focus on youth.
- Initiate engagement with youth.
- Mentor young people to engage in development processes.
- Engage youth advisors to sit on NGO boards.
- Facilitate opportunities for adult decision-makers to engage with youth.
- Collect age-disaggregated data.





**Thank you**

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