YouthMap Uganda Internship Program

Challenge
With 28 percent of the population ranging from 12 to 24 years of age, Sub-Saharan Africa is the most youthful region in the world. In Uganda, young people under the age of 30 constitute 78 percent of the population (Uganda National Household Survey 2009-10). With its growing youth population and high unemployment and underemployment rates, the country faces numerous challenges to meet the education and employment needs of its young people.

Response
YouthMap is a four-year regional program designed to assess youth circumstances and support promising youth development programs in up to eight African countries. An initiative of the International Youth Foundation (IYF), YouthMap is supported by a US$10 million agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

YouthMap Uganda Assessment
YouthMap conducted a youth assessment in Uganda in 2011, which included consultation with more than 1,000 young people and 180 key stakeholders in 12 districts countrywide. The assessment revealed a high level of interest in internships among youth who desire to have practical skills and experience and be better prepared for the labor market. The report is available at www.iyfnet.org/youthmap-uganda.

Uganda Internship Program
Building on the YouthMap assessment findings, IYF and its implementing partner Restless Development Uganda are managing an internship program under USAID’s guidance that equips young people (ages 23 to 30) with practical skills and work experience, as well as professional development support. The goal of this two-year pilot initiative is to prepare participants to work, lead, and contribute to broader development efforts. The program offers short-term employability skills training to 100 graduates of higher institutions of learning and helps them participate in six-month internships with companies and NGOs in USAID priority areas. Interns are also contributing to USAID/Uganda’s learning agenda related to youth issues.

The first cycle of the program begins April 2013. Interns will be working in the sectors of agriculture, information and communications (ICT), civil society, government, banking and finance, and tourism and hospitality. The internships will be carried out in Kampala and the following USAID priority Districts: (Western) Bushenyi and Kasese, (Eastern) Jinja and Busia, and (Northern) Gulu and Lira.

To oversee this dynamic program, YouthMap has established an advisory committee to provide technical guidance and support policy and partnership development. Members include youth MPs, the Minister of Youth, and senior representatives from government, private sector, and civil society organizations, including the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, MTN Uganda, Crested Stocks and Securities, the DFCU Bank, Aga Khan Foundation, and FHI360.
Join Us
Following USAID’s Global Development Alliance model, the YouthMap Uganda Internship Program forges partnerships with public, private, and civil society organizations—with the goal of helping young people to make a successful transition from school to work while at the same time contributing to the development of the Ugandan workforce. YouthMap welcomes interest from prospective partner organizations to join us in supporting Ugandan youth. Partner organizations may contribute by:

1) Offering internship placements and
2) Providing financial or in-kind support to help cover the costs of internships, training, placement, mentoring, and networking support.

Participating employers are asked to offer and oversee a meaningful internship placement, collaborate in the process of matching youth to available positions, assign a mentor committed to the professional development of each intern hosted by that employer, attend and support program activities (including orientation, career fairs, and debrief sessions), and provide 25% of the cost share (US$85-100 per month for six months) in cash or in-kind support such as meals and transportation.

All partner organizations will benefit from greater visibility and participation in a broader youth development network in Uganda and across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Current partners of the YouthMap Uganda Internship Program include:

ACDI/VOCA  Forward Foundation  Pearl Capital Partners
Act4Africa  Hotel Africana  Plan International
Aga Khan Foundation  Hotel Paradise  PricewaterhouseCoopers
AgriBiz Internet Marketing Portal  International HIV/AIDS Alliance (Sunrise)  SDS/Cardino Emerging Markets Group
Aramex  Lira Hotel  Smart FM/NBS FM/Kodheyo TV
AVSI  Marie Stopes Uganda  Suubi Mixed Farm
Barclays Bank  Microsoft  The Daily Monitor
Biospore Technologies  Ministry of Gender, Labor, and Social Development (MGLSD)  TPO Uganda
Care International  National Agricultural Research Laboratories  Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Youth Affairs (UPFYA)
Crested Crane Hotel  MTN Uganda  Uganda Telecom
Crested Stocks & Securities  Smart FM/NBS FM/Kodheyo TV  Unity FM
DFCU Bank  National Agricultural Research Laboratories  USAID
FHI360  Neem Biocide  Variety Plus Uganda

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