
A Young Commonwealth

Commonwealth Youth Programme



The Commonwealth

Young People in the Commonwealth

Young people of the Commonwealth face many issues in today's world – unemployment, HIV/AIDS, poverty, marginalisation, violence and crime, etc. Yet young people are also significant (potential) assets to their communities and the Commonwealth.

There are 1.2 billion young people under 30 years of age in the Commonwealth.
They make up 60% of the population.



Commonwealth Charter: Article XIII

Importance of Young People in the Commonwealth

*We recognise the **positive and active role** and contributions of young people in promoting development, peace, democracy and in protecting and promoting other Commonwealth values, such as tolerance and understanding, including respect for other cultures.*

The future success of the Commonwealth rests with the continued commitment and contributions of young people in promoting and sustaining the Commonwealth and its values and principles, and we commit to investing in and promoting their development, particularly through the creation of opportunities for youth employment and entrepreneurship.

Commonwealth Secretariat Strategic Plan 2013-17

1. **Democracy**
2. **Public Institutions**
3. **Social Development**
4. **Youth** - Strategic outcome: That young people are more integrated and valued in political and development processes.
5. **Development: pan-Commonwealth**
6. **Development: Small States and Vulnerable States**

Commonwealth Youth Programme

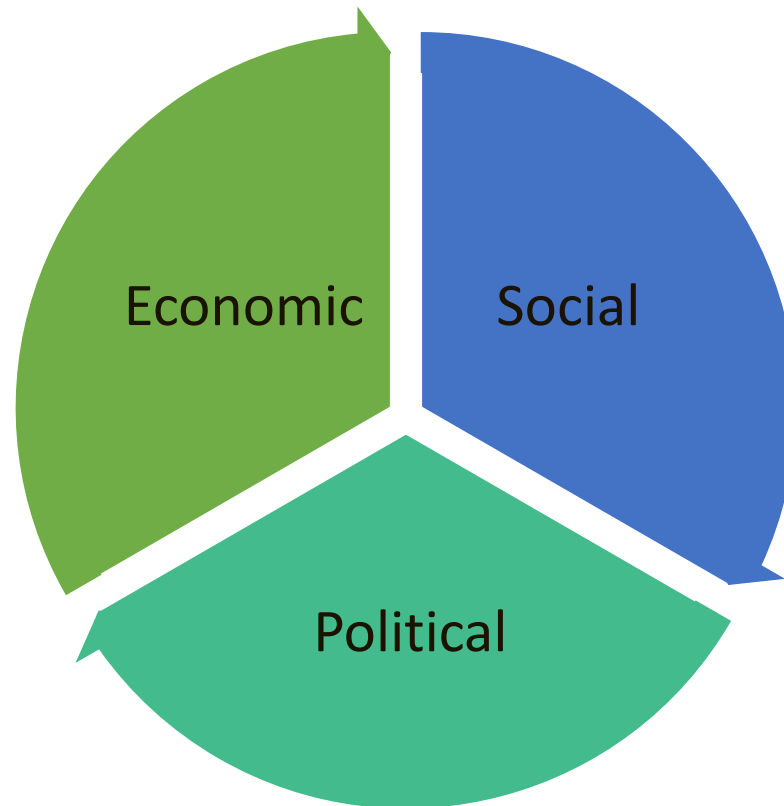
- Dedicated focus on youth development for over 40 years
- Only intergovernmental youth programme in the Commonwealth
- Assists governments in developing and implementing policy and programme for the empowerment of young people aged 15-29



Purpose of the Commonwealth Youth Programme

CYP's vision is a Commonwealth where young people empowered to deal with the multiple and complex issues that they face, and to utilise their potential for their own fulfilment and to partner and lead on the betterment of their societies.

Youth Empowerment is a guiding principle



From: *Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment 2007-2015*

CYP over 40 Years - Highlights

Youth Work
Education &
Training

National Youth
Policies & Action
Plans

Capacity Building

Youth Ministries, Youth
Officials, Youth Leaders

Youth Enterprise &
Financial Inclusion

Youth-led Networks
& Platforms

Youth-led
Development
Projects

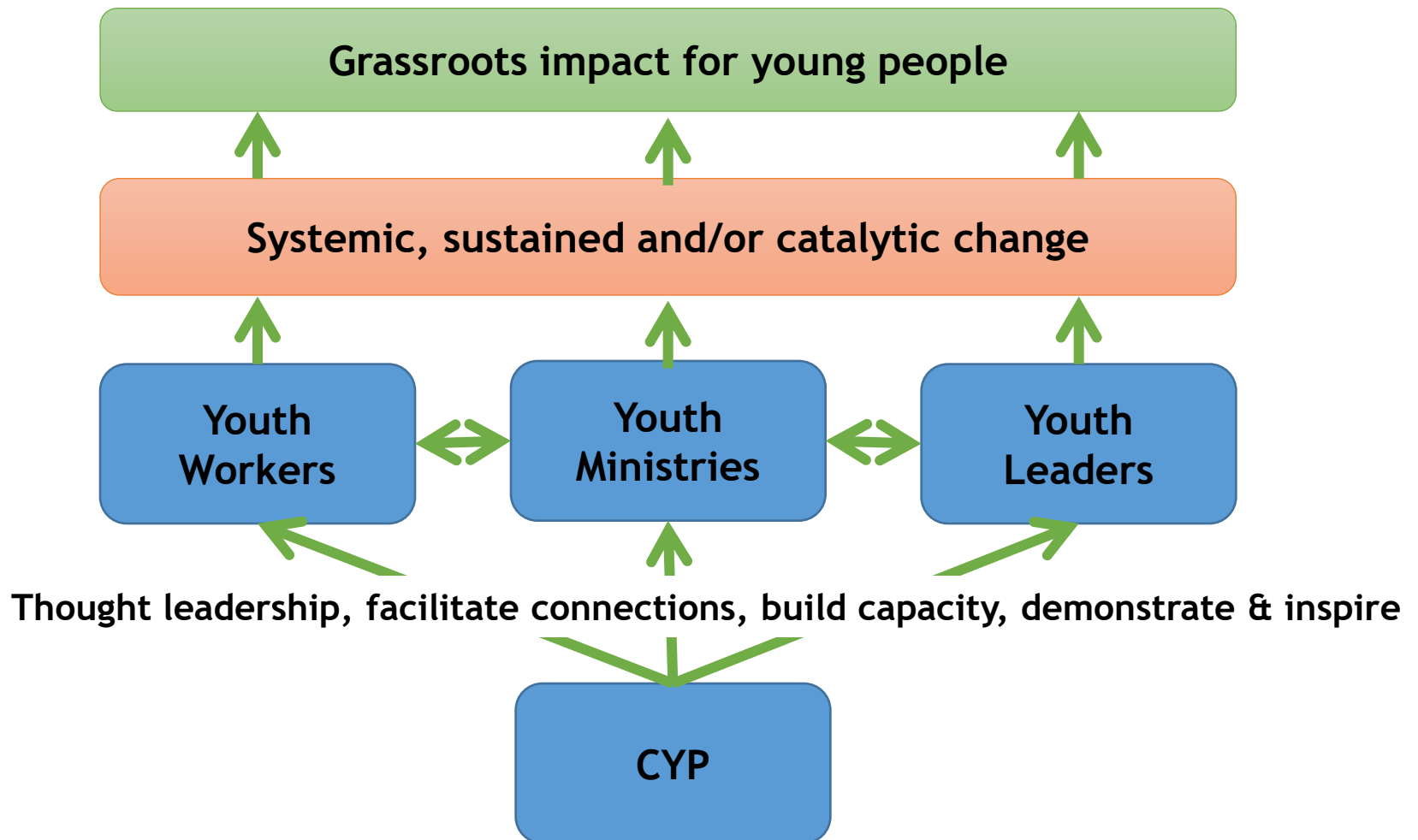
Youth Development
Index

Sport for
Development &
Peace

Ministers Meetings

Asset Based Approach | Advocacy | Programming | Tools & Materials

CYP Theory of Change



2013-17 Intermediate Outcomes



2. Engaging & Empowering Young People

- Youth Networks and Platforms
- Youth Development Mechanisms



1. Enabling Environments

- Policies & Frameworks
- Youth Work Professionalisation
- Sport for Development & Peace



1. Enabling Environments

1. Policies & Frameworks

- Technical assistance & capacity building for Youth Ministries
- *Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment / Youth Policy Framework*
- *Policy Guide on Youth Entrepreneurship*
- Pan-Commonwealth & Regional Youth Ministers Meetings
- Youth Development Index (& national level YDIs*)
- Advocacy for post 2015 development agenda
- Community of Practice in Youth Development Work*

2. Youth Work Professionalisation

- Global consortium for Degree in Youth Development Work*
- *Commonwealth Youth Work Week*
- *Commonwealth Youth Worker Awards*
- *Commonwealth Conference on Youth Work Education and Training**
- National and international youth worker associations
- *Commonwealth Advisory Body on Youth Work**

3. Sport for Development and Peace (SDP)

- Advocacy for using sport as development tool
- Technical assistance for National SDP Action Plans
- Policy guidance for using sport to deliver post-2015 targets*
- Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meetings
- *Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS)*
- *Commonwealth Youth SDP Working Group*
- International Day of SDP
- SDP training at Commonwealth Youth Games*

* Project/programme under development

2. Engaging & Empowering Young People

1. Youth Networks & Platforms

- *Commonwealth Youth Council*
- Regional youth networks (eg *Caribbean Regional Youth Council*)
- *Commonwealth-Asia Alliance for Youth Entrepreneurs*, & replication of model in Caribbean and Africa.
- *Commonwealth Students Association*
- Commonwealth youth networks (eg *Youth Climate Change Network, Human Rights and Democracy Network*)

1. Youth Networks & Platforms (cont.)

- *Commonwealth Youth Forum & Youth Dialogue with Heads* at CHOGM
- Youth Forums alongside, & youth input to, Ministers Meetings (eg Education, Youth)
- *YourCommonwealth.org* & Commonwealth Correspondents
- Research on National Youth Council models*

2. Youth Development Mechanisms

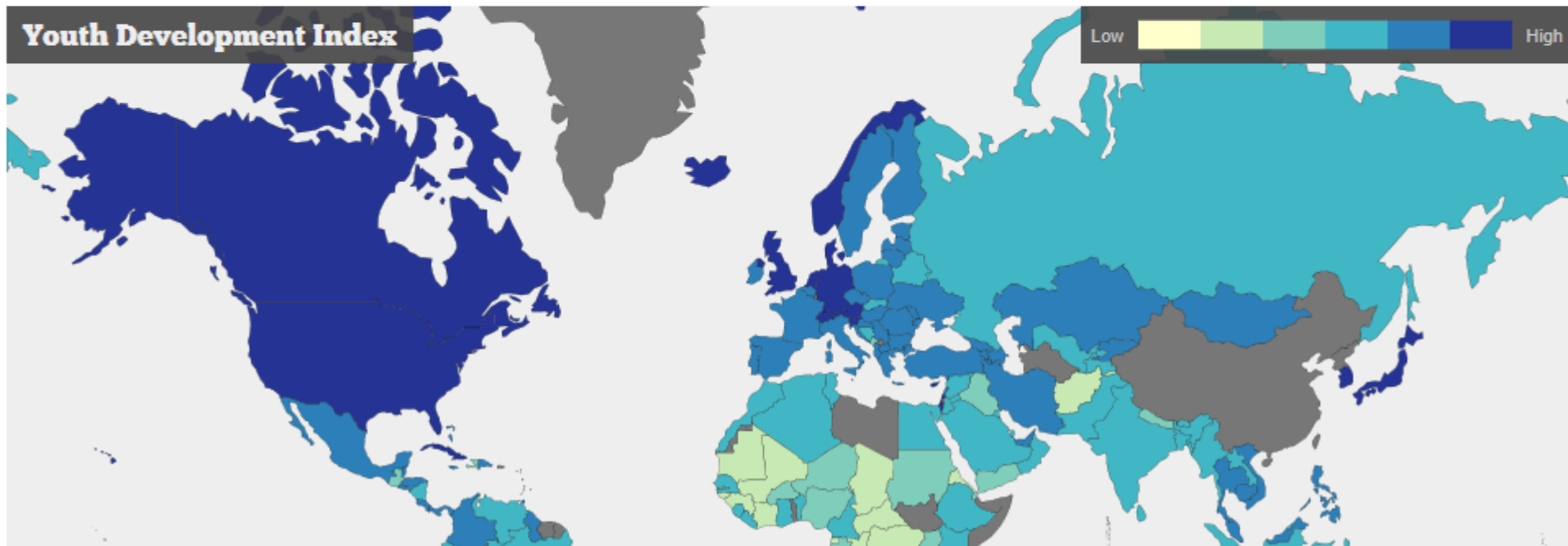
- *Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development*
- *Commonwealth Young Professionals Programme*
- Capacity building of youth development organisations (g ToT in Human Rights)
- 2015 Commonwealth theme 'A Young Commonwealth'
- *Commonwealth Youth Diaspora Group**

* Project/programme under development

www.youthdevelopmentindex.org



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Common Themes

- SDGs
- Youth-specific data and YDI
- Youth employment, enterprise, entrepreneurs' alliances
- Youth voice, esp. through representative networks
- Youth participation in national development, especially on issues that strongly affect young people
- Rights- / values-based leadership and development
- Investment in youth development - CYP, Ministries, youth networks

Common Themes

- Education that increases employability and citizenship
- Sharing of knowledge and good practice
- Youth access to decision making, finance, development processes
- Need for collaborative, collective action
- Importance of diversity - respect and understanding



Major Commonwealth Meetings

- Regional Youth Ministers Meeting- Africa, Caribbean, Asia (July, Pacific Sept) 2015 CYMM 2017 - Uganda
- Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting - July 2014 August 2016
 - Sport for Development & Peace
 - Integrity in Sport
- Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers - Aug 2012, 2018
 - Recommendations for post 2015 Development Framework
- Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting - April 2013, Uganda 2017
 - Included Commonwealth Youth Leaders Forum & Stakeholders Forum
 - *“Young people at the Centre of Sustainable Development”*
- Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting - Nov 2013, UK 2018
 - Included Commonwealth Youth Forum
 - *“Young People at the Centre of Sustainable and Inclusive Development”*



The Commonwealth

Youth Networks



CSA
commonwealth
students
association



cycn commonwealth youth
climate change network

www.yourcommonwealth.org





Commonwealth
Youth Awards,

Young Commonwealth: In the Secretariat

- Human Rights Unit: Human Rights Training of Trainers
- Education and Health- CW Student Forum
- Rule of Law Division: Hosted a Youth Moot Court competition for legal students to participate in a mock 'war crimes' court case
- **Young Professionals Programme:** The Commonwealth Secretariat is launching a new programme of 2 year placements for young people in the Commonwealth

Young Commonwealth: Outside the Secretariat

- Commonwealth Scholars: A scholarship programme ran by the Association of Commonwealth Universities, funding talented students to study in the UK
- Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust: A new awards scheme for young people displaying leadership skills from around the Commonwealth





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Challenges and Opportunities

- Communication between HC and Secretariat
- Communication between Ministries of Youth and HC
- Collaboration with other divisions/sections
- How to translate Commonwealth Mandates internationally, regionally
- How best to involve HC

Strategic Plan 2013-17 (Youth Pillar)

1. Enabling Environments

- Policies, frameworks, guidelines, systems
- Professionalisation of youth work
- Sport for Development and Peace

2. Engaging & Empowering Young People

- Youth-led networks & platforms
- Capacity building in youth development