

From Readiness to Access: Building the Capacity of Young Men and Young Women to Contribute to Household Sustainable Livelihood Strategies

6 Effective Practices:

- ✓ Appraise and appreciate **existing** youth livelihood **assets** (human, social and financial), youth livelihood **capabilities** (positive risk taking, innovation, problem solving skills), and youth livelihood **activities**, using a Youth Livelihood Mapping process.¹
- ✓ Understand the contribution of youth economic activities (paid and un-paid) to existing **household** and **extended family** livelihood strategies -- and appreciate how these activities, in turn, foster young people's acquisition of livelihood assets and capabilities.
- ✓ Document **existing sources** (formal and informal) of livelihood development inputs – including sources for technical skills training, start-up capital accumulation, enterprising life skills development and social /peer support.
- ✓ Use PRA tools and a “demand driven” product development approach to differentiate/segment the “youth market” in a given community. Then work with key stakeholders (including youth) to both **re-design** existing, and begin to **design** new, livelihood readiness interventions – including those linked to acquiring **human assets** (e.g. via non-formal basic education offerings, technical skills training or life skills development), **social assets** (e.g. via service learning and/or peer support activities), **financial assets** (e.g. through savings mobilization and financial literacy programs) and key **livelihood capabilities** (e.g. via enterprise practicums, work placements/ apprenticeships).²
- ✓ Work with microfinance providers to appraise current youth use (direct or indirect) of existing microfinance services / products. Identify any **barriers to access** (structural, legal, cultural) faced by young clients, and assess areas for **new product** development.
- ✓ Identify the optimal ways that supportive adults can “**accompany**” young men and young women's ongoing acquisition and development of livelihood assets, capabilities and activities – with an emphasis on livelihood **coaching** and mentoring style interventions.³

¹ See microlinks.org and EQUIP123.net for the Uganda and West Bank “Youth, Conflict and Microfinance Case Studies” and more on Youth Livelihood Mapping

² See globalyouthlivelihoods.org for more on the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach, and Accompanied Youth Livelihood Development (AYLD)

³ For more on the work of EQUIP3 in the area of Youth Livelihoods contact David James-Wilson at djames-wilson@edc.org and see EQUIP123.net