



EYD2015

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

European Year for Development in 2015

2015 is a landmark year for international aid and development cooperation as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) come to their conclusion. Based on these, the world will come together to agree on a new course of action and a post-2015 development agenda. Each month, the EYD2015 is focusing on a different development theme, to raise awareness of the benefits of the EU's development cooperation in that field, and encourage direct involvement, critical thinking and active interest of EU citizens.

JULY, THE MONTH OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

When world leaders signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 25 years ago, they promised to guarantee every child the right to life, to be educated and healthy, to be treated fairly and to be heard. But has the world kept its promises? Today's generation of young people is the largest in history. Our world is home to over 3.5 billion people under the age of 30 years, half of the world's population. As Nelson Mandela said, "there can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children".

Remarkable progress is being made, with the number of children out of school declining by 42% since the millennium and the number of child deaths being almost halved since 1990. However, it is clear that many children and young people around the world are still being denied their basic rights. There are 58 million children who do not have access to primary education and 168 million children working and in most cases, in indecent conditions. 17 000 children die every day, mostly from preventable or treatable causes.

All children have the right to be protected from violence, exploitation and abuse. Yet still, there are millions of boys and girls who are victims and at risk around the world. With 60 million children subjected to physical punishment by carers, 10% of children living in areas affected by armed conflict, 100 million girls subjected to female genital mutilation and 230 million children worldwide being denied a legal identity. It is clear that while we have achieved great progress over the last 25 years, still too many children are deprived of their rights and the chance to live the lives they deserve.



Kenima, 15, holds her sister's 5 month old daughter, Jahrida. Kenima has been trained to protect herself from HIV and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) by the Productive Organization for Women in Action, an organisation supported by the EU, in Belize. Read her story on europa.eu/eyd/2015.

THE EU'S COOPERATION IN ACTION

BETWEEN 2004 AND 2012 THE EU CONTRIBUTED TO:

In Education:

- 13.7 million new pupils enrolled in primary education;
- 300 000 new female students enrolled in secondary education.

In Health:

- 18.3 million children vaccinated against measles;
- More than 8 500 health facilities worldwide constructed or renovated.

In Employment:

- 7.7 million people received technical and vocational education and training.

EU COOPERATION COUNTRY FOCUS:

- **Bangladesh:** Access to basic education was provided to disadvantaged children, with 137 000 boys and 144 000 girls enrolled in just the first year.
- **Nigeria:** 6.5 million children registered at birth in 2 years.
- **Egypt:** Close to 15 000 families declared to have abandoned Female Genital Mutilation in Egypt.



Pitang, dropped out of school and started working in the sugarcane plantations in the Philippines when she was just 6. She has been able to return to school as a result of an EU programme that reintegrates child labourers back into formal education. Read her story on europa.eu/eyd/2015.

EU and Children and Youth

The EU's development cooperation works to ensure children's rights are respected and young people can access the basic services and opportunities they need to pursue their aspirations and live a life in dignity.

The EU has played a central role in achieving progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to children and young people, and in shaping the post-2015 Agenda – the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The EU will continue to focus on improving the conditions for children and youth, including in education, health, protection from all forms of violence and preventing the worst forms of child labour. A particular focus will be given to youth social inclusion and employment by promoting participation in decision making and the promotion of quality education, including learning and skills to match job opportunities, including self-employment.

The post-2015 agenda is a once in a generation opportunity to effectively address issues that are a priority for children and youth. It should be a universal agenda, so that every person in the world can benefit from it. The EU supports an agenda that leaves no one behind, in particular children and youth, who are our future and our inspiration.

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

The importance of promoting Children and Youth in the post 2015 development agenda has been recognised with 8 of the proposed new UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) making children and youth an explicit target of the goals.

THEMATIC MONTHS

Each month during the campaign will focus on a different theme involved in development around the world:

- January:* EUROPE IN THE WORLD
- February:* EDUCATION
- March:* WOMEN AND GIRLS
- April:* HEALTH
- May:* PEACE AND SECURITY
- June:* SUSTAINABLE GREEN GROWTH, DECENT JOBS, BUSINESSES
- July:* CHILDREN AND YOUTH
- August:* HUMANITARIAN AID
- September:* DEMOGRAPHY AND MIGRATION
- October:* FOOD SECURITY
- November:* SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION
- December:* HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE



Join the EYD2015 campaign online!

Join the EYD2015 campaign online! Stay up to date with information and news on the official campaign website, join the conversation on Twitter (#EYD2015) and have your say on Facebook.

Infographics, online banners, campaign trailers and more materials can be downloaded from the EYD2015 website. You can also join the group "European Year for Development 2015" on capacity4dev.eu to join the debate and get the latest news.

To get more involved, you can join us at events across the EU, and spread the impact of the campaign by co-branding with the EYD2015.

europa.eu/eyd2015

facebook.com/EuropeanYearForDevelopment2015

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