



Youth Leadership in Sexual and Reproductive Health Program Programa de Liderazgo Joven en Salud Sexual y Reproductiva (GOJoven)

The Youth Leadership in Sexual and Reproductive Health Program (GOJoven) is a nine-year leadership development program for young professionals in adolescent sexual & reproductive health working in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Quintana Roo, Mexico. The program is implemented by International Health Programs of the Public Health Institute and is funded by the Summit Foundation since 2004. GOJoven has two components: 1) developing the vision, commitment, and leadership capacity of young leaders through a Fellowship program; 2) Institutional Strengthening for local organizations supporting these emerging leaders' efforts to create lasting change.

Goals

1. To improve adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights programs, policies, and outcomes in Honduras, Guatemala, Belize and Quintana Roo, Mexico by developing the next generation of young leaders in the region.
2. To strengthen the capacity of organizations working locally to create lasting improvements in sexual and reproductive health and rights for young people in their countries.

Program Principles

- Invest in young people by empowering and supporting individual participants' vision to create change
- Achieve results by encouraging strategic thinking, innovation, and inter-sectoral collaboration to maximize impact
- Shift the context for adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights in the region by enhancing participants' leadership capacity, commitment, and vision to transform programs and policies

Target Population and Geographic Focus

Participants are young leaders ages 18-30 from Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, and Quintana Roo, Mexico. Participants must be committed to advancing the field of adolescent sexual and reproductive health with experience in one or more of the following areas: health, environment, youth development, media, human rights, community development, and advocacy. Participants must also speak and read Spanish well. Annually, GOJoven staff personally interviews and selects young leaders for the Fellowship program from a specific geographical area within each country.

Primary Strategies

1. Train and provide ongoing support to teams of 5-6 young leaders from each geographic area per year for a total of 20-24 Summit Fellows annually. Provide Summit Fellows with both in-country and regional training opportunities to strengthen their commitment and capacity to advancing the sexual and reproductive health agenda in the region.
2. Increase the capacity of organizations in each participating country through an Institutional Strengthening process. Provide participating organizations with technical assistance, training, and financial support to build their capacity to improve adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights outcomes in the region.
3. Institutionalize structure for on-going development of young leaders in participating countries. GOJoven Fellows will join a network of emerging and established leaders in the region, thereby supporting and strengthening their own and one another's capacity to create change.

Timeline

GOJoven will run from December 2003-December 2012. Fellows in each cohort will participate in four week-long regional trainings, spaced at four month intervals, throughout the year. Program promotion and formal recruitment of Fellows will take place from January – April of each year. Technical assistance, ongoing support, and coaching will be provided throughout the Fellowship and for the duration of the Program. Through the Institutional Strengthening component of the program, organizations and institutions employing Fellows and other organizations that support adolescent sexual and reproductive health and youth development will receive training, technical assistance, and coaching to strengthen their institutional capacity to lead adolescent reproductive health change efforts locally, nationally and regionally.

More Information

Please contact GOJoven Program Director Esther Tahrir at etahrir@ihp.org and visit our webpage at www.gojoven.org.