

The Youth Leadership in Sexual and Reproductive Health Program



In 2011, The Summit Foundation commissioned an external evaluation of the Public Health Institute's GOJoven program implemented since 2004 in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico to build young adult leaders' and local organizations' capacity to improve adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASRHR). The following are highlights from this evaluation.

Results at the Individual Level:

1. GOJoven has had positive effects on Fellows':

- Self-awareness & self-confidence in leadership skills
- Comfort with one's sexuality
- Acceptance of & respect for cultural & sexual diversity
- Attitude toward gender & sexual diversity
- Skills to build leadership & ASRHR capacity among others (particularly youth)
- Technical knowledge of ASRHR (e.g., HIV, family planning)
- Commitment to ASRHR work

2. GOJoven Fellows reported that the knowledge, attitudes, & skills they acquired through GOJoven helped them attain increasingly influential leadership roles & responsibilities.



3. Alumni have applied their new knowledge, attitudes, & skills to improve sexual & reproductive health-related knowledge, attitudes, & behaviors among their families & friends.

"I MADE AN EFFORT TO TALK NATURALLY ABOUT SEXUALITY... AND LITTLE BY LITTLE, MY PARENTS, BROTHERS, AND SISTERS WERE ASKING ME ABOUT TOPICS... THAT THEY NEVER WOULD HAVE DARED ASK BEFORE."

-GOJoven Fellow from Mexico

CONTINUED ON REVERSE

MORE RESULTS AT THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

4. GOJoven Fellows have applied their acquired knowledge, attitudes, & skills in the following ways:

- Training organizational staff, new Fellows, & local youth in leadership skills & ASRHR
- Advocating in their organizations for a greater mission & program focus on youth & on ASRHR
- Writing funding proposals for ASRHR-related work
- Participating in local & national ASRHR-related committees
- Incorporating ASRHR into their media work (e.g., in newspaper or radio)
- Serving as GOJoven Country Consultants, Trainers, Advisors, & Evaluators
- Founding new NGOs to address issues related to ASRHR

Results at the Organizational Level:

1. GOJoven has had positive effects on local organizations in the following ways:

- New or expanded youth and/or ASRHR focus in organizational missions, strategic plans, policies, and/or programming
- Increased representation of youth and/or diverse gender & cultural groups in organizational actions and/or programming
- Improved cohesion & collaboration among staff
- Improved staff knowledge, attitudes, & skills concerning youth work, ASRHR, & project planning and/or evaluation
- Increased collaboration with other organizations
- Increased visibility & recognition of the organization

Promising Practices:

- Focusing on Fellows' self-awareness & personal development
- Fostering a sense of community & peer support within the program
- Using a highly participatory, interactive training methodology
- Providing ongoing opportunities for Fellows to apply newly acquired knowledge, attitudes, & skills
- Involving Fellows in the Institutional Strengthening process



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