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DFID Youth Trailblazing Initiative

Mozambique as Trailblazer Country

SUMMARY

The objective of the Youth Trailblazing Initiative is to put young people at the heart of development. The aim is to support young people to **transition into early adolescence, and from education into employment**, as well as to be agents and advocates for change.

WHY ARE YOUNG PEOPLE A DFID PRIORITY?

- The median age in Sub-Saharan Africa is 18 and over 500 million young people between 15 and 24 live on less than \$2 per day. This makes them important **beneficiaries** of our programmes.
- Engaging young people as **agents** in programme design and delivery could lead to improved results, quality programming and value for money. This is because young people have specific needs (especially girls) and offer mobility, flexibility and certain abilities.
- Young people can be a positive disruptive change in political equilibria. They can be **advocates** who can catalyse change.
- Some argue that high youth unemployment or underemployment rates can contribute to conflict and violence, but the evidence on this is mixed.

“Young Mozambicans constantly tell us they need skills, decent jobs and for their opinions to be taken seriously. At DFID Mozambique we are directly responding by engaging young people in shaping and delivering our programmes.”

*Alicia Herbert
Head of Office, DFID Mozambique*

WHAT THIS INITIATIVE MEANS IN PRACTICE

- DFID will change **WHAT** it is doing in terms of programming, and apply a lifecycle approach to its youth focused work, which goes beyond defining young people by age (10-24), to identify what it means to become an adult by other defining moments such as getting a job, marrying or becoming a parent. The focus will be on young people in protracted crises and urban environments.
- DFID will change **HOW** it works, partnering with young people to act as agents on the frontline, and empowering them as advocates to hold Governments to account.

THE ROLE OF DFID MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique, Bangladesh, Tanzania and Sierra Leone put themselves forward as Trailblazer Countries. DFID Mozambique wants to turn the Youth Trailblazing Initiative into reality through the following **3 projects**:

- **Capacity building for Mozambique’s young development professionals:** Provides university graduates with training and work placements, builds a Reference Group of youth advisers, and organises workshops.
- **Youth communications campaign:** Uses the [Shujaaz approach](#) from Kenya and Tanzania to disseminate youth-relevant messages coming out of DFID Mozambique programmes through comic books.
- **Youth entrepreneurship project:** Support for [Youth Business International](#) to set up a comprehensive youth entrepreneurship project in cooperation with a local partner.