

## Chapter 20

# Introduction to Full Case Studies

---

### 20.1 Introduction

This section helps demonstrate practical steps taken to implement youth mainstreaming. It includes six sectoral case studies from across the Commonwealth and elsewhere that look at how the sectors of poverty alleviation, health, employment, finance, justice and urban planning have taken on youth mainstreaming in their respective domains, how this work feeds into the SDGs' targets, and the implications for institutions and structures in realising such initiatives. It is these kinds of sectoral initiatives that will be part of the process of holistic national youth mainstreaming.

The SDGs are the development targets to which governments have agreed. Many governments may align new national and local development frameworks to the goals. This chapter responds to the questions: Why is working with young people critical to achieving these targets? How does work with and for young people help achieve these targets and help ensure equitable outcomes for young people? and Why is it that *not* working with young people will lead to shortfalls in reaching the targets?

### 20.2 Case studies and the SDGs

This section looks at sectoral case studies through the lens of selected SDGs to explore the opportunities they generate for youth mainstreaming. Working towards the SDGs for young people does not mean that we need to always find entirely novel ways of working, even though this too is important. But often, youth mainstreaming is about ways of replicating existing good practices across sectors and expanding these visions and strategies.

Most of the examples below demonstrate that providing a youth lens for the SDGs involves the meaningful and sustained participation of young people in research, legislation, policy

and programming related to the goal in question; achieving the SDGs is not possible without their participation. It also demonstrates the importance of working with the youth sector.

The case studies have several features. They:

- represent both national and subnational initiatives and highlight links between them – e.g. Ghana’s youth budget example, where local efforts ultimately influenced national outcomes as well;
- are drawn from civil society and government programmes and show how different players within a single sector can influence each other – e.g. civil society influencing broader state adoption of good practice, as in the case of South Africa’s Youth-Friendly Health Centres; and
- demonstrate government, civil society and other stakeholders’ accountability to young people, to human rights aspirations and legislation, and to global and national development frameworks.

These stories are not meant to be comprehensive in terms of the sectoral technical specificities or the details of their implementation, and are meant only to serve as guides for youth mainstreaming which should catalyse further dialogue with sectoral and youth specialists.