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Youth Mainstreaming in Development Planning: Transforming Young Lives is a compendium of concepts to initiate dialogue and mobilise consensus around visions and strategies for young people and includes practical tools and techniques that will support initiatives to mainstream youth rights, voices and capabilities across government and other institutions. It is aimed policy-makers and practitioners in all sectors engaged in development planning at all levels.

CONTENTS

List of figures
List of tables
List of boxes
Forewords
Preface
Acknowledgments
Acronyms and abbreviations
Executive Summary
Contributors

Part I: Concepts and Discussions
1. What is Youth Mainstreaming?
2. Why Youth Mainstreaming?
3. The Sustainable Development Goals and Youth Mainstreaming
4. The Youth Mainstreaming Enablers Framework
5. Policy Processed and Youth
6. The Role of the Youth Sector
7. Transformational Youth Participation for Youth Mainstreaming
8. Stakeholder Engagement
9. Youth-centric Evidence and Data Disaggregation
10. Structural Enablers

Part II: Implementation
11. Implications for Development Planning
12. Youth Mainstreaming Spaces and Accountability
13. Planning Levels and Preliminary Assessments
14. Establishing Principles
15. Conducting a Youth-Centric Analysis
16. The Programme Cycle
17. The Process
18. Financing Youth Mainstreaming
19. Concluding Observations: Towards Practical, Principled Youth Mainstreaming

Part III: Case Studies
20. Introduction to Case Studies 187
21. Case Study Theme 1: Youth and Poverty Alleviation – India and South Africa
22. Case Study Theme 2: Youth and Health – South Africa and India
23. Case Study Theme 3: Youth and Employment – Kenya and Uganda
24. Case Study Theme 4: Youth Budgets – Ghana and Uganda
25. Case Study Theme 5: Youth and Justice – United Kingdom

Annex 1: Definitions of Youth
Annex 2: Youth Social, Political and Economic Empowerment
Annex 3: Youth Participation Practice Standards
Annex 4: Marginality Mapping
Annex 5: Sarah White’s ‘Interests in Participation’ Model
Annex 6: The power cube: Levels, spaces and forms of power
Annex 7: Example Youth Analysis Frameworks
Glossary
Further Reading
11. Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All, and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at All Levels (SDG 16)

Appendix
Youth Work in the Commonwealth: A Growth Profession establishes a baseline to inform the planning and implementation of initiatives to professionalise youth work in Commonwealth member countries. The study was conducted in 35 countries in the Africa, Asia, the Caribbean/Americas, Europe and Pacific regions.

It catalogues the extent to which the youth work profession is formally recognised in these countries and examines the qualities and rights-based ethos of the various forms of youth work promoted and practised in the Commonwealth.

The report aims to help countries learn from good practices, and assess gaps in establishing youth work as a recognised profession in diverse contexts.

CONTENTS

Credits
List of figures
List of tables
List of boxes
Acknowledgements
Foreword
Message from the Commonwealth Alliance of Youth Workers’ Associations (CAYWA)
Abbreviations and Acronyms
Glossary
Executive Summary

1. Background
2. Introduction to Youth Work
3. Defining Professionalism
4. Paradigms of Practice
5. A Selective History of Youth Work
6. Trends in National Youth Work Practice
7. Legislation and Policy
8. Professional Associations for Youth Work
9. Qualifications Pathways
10. Regulating Practice
11. Professional Validation of Youth Work education and Training
12. Professional Supervision
13. Financial Investment and Youth Worker Remuneration

Annex 1: Identified Commonwealth Youth Workers’ Associations
Annex 2: Baseline Questionnaire
Annex 3: Baseline Interviewees
Annex 4: State/National Youth Representation Structures as of mid-2016
Annex 5: Principles Linked To Course Content and Subject Areas
Annex 6: Core Building Blocks for Youth Work Education and Training: An Example from Youth Workers’ Association, Australia
Annex 7: Graduate Capabilities: Youth Workers’ Association – Australia

References
The world economy has undergone tremendous change during the past decade, with a range of emerging issues influencing global trade and coming to the fore in discussions among policy-makers and trade negotiators. Whether these issues will or should be addressed within the multilateral context as part of a trade agenda is still being debated, but inevitably countries need to engage with these policy issues and the implications for their economies.

In light of this changing international landscape, small developing countries need special support to effectively participate in the ongoing discussions on emerging issues in the various international bodies, including the WTO.

This publication seeks to inform and help Commonwealth small developing countries adapt to emerging issues such as climate change, e-commerce, the implementation agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the new role of Micro, Small and Medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and GVCs within global trade. Finally, it also addresses the systemic issues that impact on the participation of these countries in the multilateral trading system and approaches to advance the WTO negotiations.

CONTENTS

Foreword
Acknowledgements
List of figures
List of tables
Contributors
Abbreviations and acronyms

1. Emerging Trade Issues for Small and Least Developed Countries – Scrutinising the Horizon


3. The Imperatives of More Effectively Leveraging Trade andAdvancing the Sustainable Development Goals in Small States

4. Effectively Influencing Value Chain Governance and Implementing SDG 14: ‘Life Below Water’

5. Trade Sustainability: Trade, Climate and Biodiversity Policy and Finance Inter-linkages

6. E-Commerce Development: Policy Considerations for Small Developing Countries

7. Post-Brexit Trade with Small Developing Countries: Making it Development-Friendly Commonwealth

8. The Emergence of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises: Enhancing their Role in International Trade


References

09-2017; 204 pp; Paperback: £45.00
The chapters collated in this publication provide for a more careful examination of GVCs within which our members specialise at the sectoral level: manufacturing, services and commodity trade, including within the realm of the oceans economy. Given that the overwhelming majority of the 52 Commonwealth member countries are small states, 45 are oceans states and around one-fifth are least developed countries, understanding how dynamics are unfolding at the sectoral level is critical to encouraging more gainful GVC participation.

Through a more inductive approach, one that involves learning from experiences across the Commonwealth of existing GVC participation, a clear set of policy measures becomes apparent. These include overcoming barriers to entry, informational asymmetries and unfair competition, and stimulating innovation. Finally, important knowledge and data constraints for small states in the Pacific and Caribbean are highlighted.

**CONTENTS**

SECTION 1: GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS
1. Slowdown in Asia’s Global Value Chains and Industrial Latecomers
2. Scale, Distance, and Remoteness in Global Value Chains
3. The Changing Landscape in Commodity Markets and Trade and Implications for Development

SECTION 2: THEMATIC ISSUES
4. Effectively Governing Global Value Chains: The Institutional Interface
5. Modes of Service Delivery and Upgrading in Global Value Chains
6. Global Value Chains, Tax and Trade: Upgrading the Position of Small States

SECTION 3: SECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS
7. Commodity Price Volatility: An Evolving Principal–Agent Problem
8. How Does Participation in International Value Chains Matter to African Farmers?
9. Global Value-Chain Participation and Development: The Experience of Ghana’s Pineapple Export Sector
10. Emerging Tiers of Suppliers and Implications for Upgrading in the High-Value Agriculture Supply Chains
11. The Global Value Chain in Canned Tuna, the International Trade Regime and Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14
12. Clothing Value Chains and Sub-Saharan Africa: Global Exports, Regional Dynamics and Industrial Development Outcomes in SSA

SECTION 4: POLICY PERSPECTIVES
13. The Automotive GVC: Policy Implications for Developing Economies
14. Tourism, Trade in Services and Global Value Chains
17. Making Global Value Chains Work for Development in the Age of Automation and Globalisation Scepticism
18. Delivering Inclusive Global Value Chains

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In each of these areas, possible trajectories to 2050 are explored, gaps in the current policy responses are identified, and recommendations are offered to steer the region towards the Pacific Vision of ‘a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives’.

**CONTENTS**

- Foreword
- Acknowledgements
- List of figures
- List of tables
- List of boxes
- Acronyms and abbreviations

1. Realising the Pacific Vision by 2050: Building on the Basics

2. The Commonwealth Pacific Small States: The Future in the Mirror of the Past

3. Political Governance and the Quest for Human Development

4. Development Effectiveness & Coordination: Partnerships on Pacific terms

5. Ocean Governance – Our Sea of Islands

6. Non-communicable Diseases: Unlocking the Constraints to Effective Implementation of Policy Interventions

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This policy guide reviews the current regulatory frameworks, legal issues, empirical data, WTO member states proposals, and existing literature on e-commerce and digital trade. It is designed to help policy-makers in capacity-constrained Commonwealth small states, least developed countries, and sub-Saharan African countries to participate effectively in global work on the subject area, including in the context of the WTO work programme on e-commerce.

It also provides an overview of the international support mechanisms that are available to allow e-commerce to stimulate trade and economic performance, through technical assistance, capacity-building, and the facilitation of access to e-commerce by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including small producers and suppliers in developing countries, and particularly in least developed countries.

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements
Abbreviations and Acronyms
1. Introduction
2. Relevance of e-commerce for development and growth
2.1 Scope of e-commerce
2.1.1 Definitions
2.1.2 Types of e-commerce and their economic implications
2.2 Links between e-commerce and economic growth
References
3. Policy frameworks for e-commerce
3.1 Salient features of early adopters
3.2 Policy framework
3.3 Addressing domestic supply side issues for competitiveness

References
4. E-commerce negotiations and interests
4.1 Taking stock of the status of the work programme at the WTO
4.2 Proposals made in the WTO
4.3 Overview of the negotiations on e-commerce outside the WTO
4.3.1 E-commerce in Preferential Trade Agreements
4.4 Identifying areas that could be reinforced to enhance development
Notes
References
5. Conclusions

References
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