

9. YOUTH GROUPS

MOBILISE

IN A NUTSHELL

Throughout the world, groups of young people are coming together to, in one voice, share their disapproval of corruption. These groups are found at local and national levels.

Different groups have different goals, but one trait in common: a willingness to talk openly about their opposition to corruption and raise awareness about its adverse effects on a society.

Organisations can be formed with an ongoing plan in mind, or for the sake of a one-off event or a single issue.

HOW DO YOU SET IT UP?

- 1. Question time:** Before you jump into the world of designing programmes for young people, ask yourself some questions first. For example, could you use an existing group or network to help young people in your community? What is the biggest corruption issue for young people today? What's the real cause of the problem? What can be done about it?
- 2. Consider collaboration:** Just like "adult" organisations, youth groups can vary in size and purpose in all sorts of ways. What's more, it may be appropriate for youth groups to work as an adjunct of an existing institution, such as a church, school or sports club.
- 3. Ask a friend:** You may already know what type of group you would like to form. But at the very least, you'll want to ask your friends and other young people how they feel about that issue. Ask direct questions, such as what sort of organisation should you form? Where should it be based and how often should it meet? How should you attract members? What should the goals of the group be?
- 4. Remember logistics:** You will also need to consider logistical issues about the running of the group. Think about things like – how can the group be resourced? How do you obtain and maintain those resources? What are the training requirements for new group members? How does the actual work of the group get undertaken? How is success shared, celebrated and replicated?

WHY DO IT?

- Healthy communities flourish when all members of those communities are listened to and engaged with – and this includes young people.
- Youth groups provide a healthy, socially productive outlet for young people to meet one another and fight for change.
- Youth groups create a culture of civic leadership for young people.

YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN

- When attracting members, look for people with the skills and passion you need to make the group succeed.
- Don't be prescriptive – allow group members to speak out about their own experiences and develop an agenda that is relevant to them.

WHAT ARE THE LIMITATIONS?

- Members may not have spare income and will find costly activities off-putting. Be sure to have affordable activities so that everyone can participate.
- Many young people may be committed to other similar groups and movements. To gain and maintain interest in your group, promote what's different about it and keep member responsibilities feasible, not overbearing.
- Organisations require a large investment of time, energy and commitment. Be sure to find a dedicated group of friends and participants that you can rely on to make sure the youth group runs efficiently.

IDEA IN ACTION

Paraguay: Youth for Change

Reacción Joven de Cambio, or Youth Change Reaction, is a youth group with members between 15 and 26 years old. The movement promotes initiatives to raise young people's awareness about corruption. In 2012, the young activists implemented the Transparency Talks Project, which included workshops for student leaders in secondary schools across three cities to strengthen their efforts to fight corruption in Paraguay.

Find out more:

www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2013/05/30/jovenes-por-un-paraguay-mas-transparenteq