



# Youth @Risk

*An information portal for practitioners*

## Resources for Practitioners working with Youth at Risk

RAPCAN Series 1, Number 3 – December 2009

### December 2009

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#### Website Links

[www.ngopulse.org](http://www.ngopulse.org)  
[www.cjcp.org.za](http://www.cjcp.org.za)  
[www.rapcan.org.za](http://www.rapcan.org.za)  
[www.evidencebasedprograms.org](http://www.evidencebasedprograms.org)  
[www.evidence-basedmanagement.com](http://www.evidence-basedmanagement.com)

### It's that time of the year...

It's that time of the year when New Year's resolutions are made, programmes are assessed, and you look at your planning for the year ahead. But how do you look at the past year and measure the impact that your programmes/projects had in 2009? Does it even matter if your programmes had an impact or not? Or is your organisation running around implementing programmes and projects because you have outcomes that have to be met due to donor funding?

What is effective programme planning and how do you ensure this so that when you plan your programme you will have maximum impact and behaviour change? Are your programme based on recent, relevant research?

RAPCAN will be hosting training in 2010 on [Designing programmes for Youth @ Risk](#). In this month's e-newsletter we take a sneak peak at some of the content of this training and give you some tips that may help you.

### Events

**SANGONeT "Social Media for NGOs" Conference, 20-21 October 2009, River Club, Cape Town.**

If like me you are technologically challenged the annual **SANGONeT "ICTs for Civil Society" Conference** was definitely the event not to miss. Being a skeptic when it comes to the use of social media for social change, especially Mixit, I walked away convinced that this is the way to go when working with Youth@ Risk. It was absolutely eye-opening what can be done with your cellphone. The Shuttleworth Foundation's presentation on the E-book was an example of how to use cutting-edge technology to reach even the most remote teenagers.

Specific attention was given to three key related issues:

- How NGOs are and/or should use social media tools (e.g. Facebook, Twitter and blogging) in support of their work
- How to strengthen and complement fundraising strategies using social media tools.
- How social media tools are used on "Africa's computer" – the cellphone.

To find out more go to: <http://www.ngopulse.org/conference2009>

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## Let's talk programme design...

### General principles of programme design

When designing effective, evidence based programmes keep the following in mind:  
[www.rapcan.co.za/File\\_Uploads/direct/Guidelines\\_for\\_Programme\\_Design.pdf](http://www.rapcan.co.za/File_Uploads/direct/Guidelines_for_Programme_Design.pdf)

### Questions to ask when designing a programme

When designing your programme use these questions to assist you:  
[www.rapcan.co.za/File\\_Uploads/direct/Questions\\_when\\_Designing\\_Youth\\_at\\_Risk\\_Interventions.pdf](http://www.rapcan.co.za/File_Uploads/direct/Questions_when_Designing_Youth_at_Risk_Interventions.pdf)

### Risk and Resilience and the Ecological model

You can not plan a successful Youth @ Risk intervention programme if you do not understand factors that place youth at risk and the factors that help them build resilience. By now organisations should know that to have maximum impact you can not work with youth in isolation but need to use an ecological approach. Read more here: [www.rapcan.co.za/File\\_Uploads/direct/Risk\\_and\\_Resilience.pdf](http://www.rapcan.co.za/File_Uploads/direct/Risk_and_Resilience.pdf)

## Useful reading

### The development of minimum standards for diversion programmes in the child justice system. Dawes A. & Van der Merwe A. 2004

[http://www.hsrc.ac.za/Research\\_Publication-18579.phtml](http://www.hsrc.ac.za/Research_Publication-18579.phtml)

### Building youth resilience to crime and violence. Lezanne Leoschut, 2008

[http://www.cjcp.org.za/admin/uploads/CJCP\\_lifestyle%20presentation%20final%20draft%2097%20friendly%20Compatibility%20Mode.pdf](http://www.cjcp.org.za/admin/uploads/CJCP_lifestyle%20presentation%20final%20draft%2097%20friendly%20Compatibility%20Mode.pdf)

### CAOV Cities Project SA report

[http://www.coav.org.br/publique/cgi/cgilua.exe/sys/start.htm?inoid=1266&sid=100&UserActiveTemplate=\\_en](http://www.coav.org.br/publique/cgi/cgilua.exe/sys/start.htm?inoid=1266&sid=100&UserActiveTemplate=_en)

### Philosophy of Effective Programming

[http://www.djj.state.fl.us/Research/CAR/Philosophy\\_of\\_Effective\\_Programming\\_\(Final\\_2006-07\).pdf](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/Research/CAR/Philosophy_of_Effective_Programming_(Final_2006-07).pdf)

## Future partnerships...

We are looking forward to sharing more news with you in the upcoming months and hope that you will participate by sharing your stories, resources and up-coming events with us.

RAPCAN works to build effective prevention and responsive measures relating to child victimisation and offending through direct service delivery, capacity building, resource development and dissemination and advocacy. Our work is strengthened by strategic partnerships and child participation. To find out more about RAPCAN visit [www.rapcan.org.za](http://www.rapcan.org.za).



**Note:** The Newsletter is pleased to provide space for members to share stories and experiences on a bi-monthly basis. We will publish all entries that uphold the values of RAPCAN. Unfortunately, we are unable to publish member's requests for funds or fundraising drives in this space.