



YouthPower Action

YouthPower Action supports and advances USAID's Youth in Development Policy through evidence-based positive youth development programming across all sectors and country contexts by providing technical assistance to USAID Missions and operating units. YouthPower Action's activities increase youth engagement and youth voice to strengthen USAID's positive youth development programming. YouthPower Action supports USAID missions and operating units through a flexible buy-in mechanism.

Current Activities

Cross-sectoral Youth Assessment Tool

YouthPower Action developed Youth Compass, a post-award activity assessment tool, to assist USAID projects to strengthen their youth programming by looking at strengths and gaps and creating an action plan to ensure effective program implementation and results. Youth Compass is shaped by three development approaches: positive youth development, cross-sectoral linkages, and gender.

Capacity Building for USAID Staff

YouthPower Action developed and implemented Youth Engagement Training in five Dreams' countries and in Washington, a Positive Youth Development training program for USAID staff, and will be delivering a youth workforce development training program for staff in Central America.

Youth Cross-Sectoral Soft Skills Review and Measurement Tool

YouthPower Action has researched, written, and published three papers on soft skills.

- [Key Soft Skills for Cross-Sectoral Youth Outcomes](#)—identifies a key set of soft skills and life skills for workforce development, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and preventing violent behaviors.
- [Guiding Principles for Building Soft and Life Skills Among Adolescents and Young Adults](#)—identifies six evidence-based principles to help foster soft skills and life skills.
- [Measuring Soft and Life Skills in International Development Programs: A Review and Inventory of Tools](#)—reviews the state of the field of soft skills measurement and provides an inventory of tools with detailed information and ratings of more than 70 instruments and recommendations for improving soft skills measurement.

Based on this research, YouthPower Action developed a new soft skills measurement tool that is being piloted in Uganda and Guatemala. The instrument will be finalized in FY19 and disseminated. The tool can be adapted for use across contexts and countries to provide a common means of measuring soft skills.

YP Action Consortium Members

FHI 360 leads a consortium that includes: Management Systems International, Restless Development, Aga Khan Development Network, Marie Stopes International, TechnoServe, BBC Media Action, Inveneo, INJAZ Al-Arab, the Trust for the Americas, Youth Business International, IRH Georgetown, Stepping Stones International, NCBA CLUSA, and World University Services Canada. Small business partners include: Block by Block, Connexus, International Media Solutions, and LTG Associates.

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Integrated Health and Workforce Review and Pilot: YouthPower Action carried out research to identify common elements of integrated workforce development and SRH programs, and published [Assessment of Integrated Workforce Development and Sexual and Reproductive Health Interventions with Recommendations for the Future](#). The project is carrying out an impact study and process evaluation of a program in Bangladesh that is implementing the model to provide additional evidence on integrated programs.

Entrepreneurship Programming Guidance: YouthPower Action reviewed literature and analyzed evidence on the impact of donor-funded entrepreneurship programs to develop programming guidance for different target beneficiary groups.

Assessment of Health Workforce Programs: YouthPower Action assessed labor market opportunities and reviewed youth employment programs in South Africa to identify opportunities for youth without a university degree to enter the health and social sectors. It made recommendations to enable youth to take advantage of a growing labor market in the health sector and address shortage of trained workers.



Support to Mozambican OVCs: YouthPower Action has supported older orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), parents, and caregivers in Mozambique by introducing a positive youth development approach to a comprehensive support program that reached more than 25,000 beneficiaries, targeting OVC ages 10-18 and youth-headed households and their families. It also expanded an integrated youth development program for OVC ages 15-17 to increase their employability and basic education skills, and improve their health knowledge and practices. The program includes an integrated curriculum that uses project-based learning, a remedial literacy program for selected youth, internships, e-mentoring, and youth-led clubs.

Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) Mentoring Pilot: YouthPower Action developed an AGYW empowerment intervention that includes group mentoring, and curriculum-based programming that covers SRH, financial skills, life skills, and gender content. Activities build AGYW protective assets that can have a positive impact on SRH outcomes and behavior, academic achievement, financial behavior, and social networks. Following a successful pilot that led to increased savings and improved health knowledge and behaviors. The program is now being implemented at a larger scale in Burundi and Ethiopia. A boys' mentoring program will also be developed.

Youth-led Food Systems Mapping Tool: For the Food for Peace Office, YouthPower Action is developing a tool to facilitate youth engagement as youth map their community to understand the different elements of the food system and how they are related. This activity will help youth identify opportunities for them to engage in their communities and ways for Food for Peace programs to better integrate youth into their programming.

Enhancing Outcomes for AGYW in Burundi: AGYW Burundi mitigates the risk of acquiring HIV for vulnerable adolescent girls (ages 10–18) in three provinces across Burundi. Project activities will increase access to HIV and family planning services, educational opportunities, and improve financial skills and access to economic opportunities for AGYW and their families.

Advancing AGYW Leadership as part of PEPFAR DREAMS Program: YouthPower Action is supporting AGYW leaders to design and lead community-based programs to address priority challenges in their communities in South Africa.

Improving Retention in Care and Adherence Pilot and Study: This activity consists of 1) a review of the peer-reviewed and grey literature on evidence-based adult care and treatment programs that could be adapted for youth and two manuscripts to present the evidence; and 2) a pilot program and study of a mHealth intervention in Nigeria for adolescents living with HIV and AIDS that offers psychosocial support through a virtual platform and access to a trained counselor.

Journal Supplement on Linking Youth to HIV Testing and Treatment: YouthPower Action commissioned a special supplement issue in AIDS entitled [“Achieving 902: Young People, HIV Testing Services and Linkage to Treatment”](#) in order to share with funders, program planners, researchers, and policy makers current evidence that addresses HIV testing and linkage to care among youth populations.

Period of Performance: February 2015 to February 2020

Current Countries of Implementation: Global, Burundi, Mozambique, Uganda, Nigeria, South Africa