

# The Impact of Young Leaders on Systems Change: Lessons from Jordan

A workshop and discussion on how you can use YouthPower Jordan's nationally scalable strategies in your own work!

**Presented by the Middle East and North Africa Youth and Youth Systems Strengthening CoPs**

August 10, 2022



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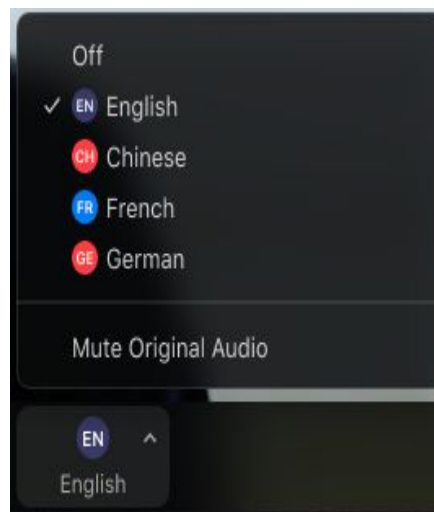
# For Arabic Presentation

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- Choose "Hanan's Screen"

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# Language Instructions



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# Welcome from your CoP Champions

Youth Systems Strengthening  
(YSS)



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# Our Agenda Today

- Introductions
- Review of the PYD Framework
- Overview of the MENA Youth CoP
- Review of the Youth Systems Framework
- Overview of YouthPower Jordan's program approach, outcomes, and nationally scalable strategies
- Breakout Rooms
- Discussion
- Closing reflections

# Webinar Housekeeping

- Please mute yourself when not speaking and keep your cameras off
- Post questions in the chat at any time
- Turn on English closed captioning with the “CC” button at the bottom of your screen
- This meeting is being recorded. The recording and slides will be available later at [youthpower.org](https://youthpower.org)
- If you have technical issues please contact Stephanie Schmidt in private message or at [stephanies@makingcents.com](mailto:stephanies@makingcents.com)

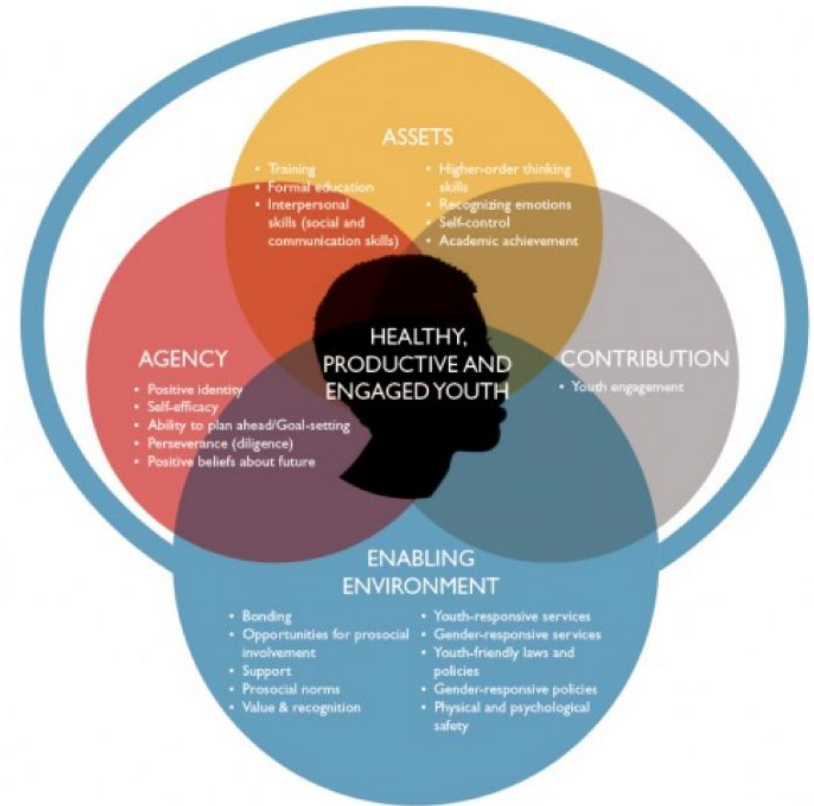
# What are our objectives for today?

- Learn about best practices of practitioners from the Global South on systems change results framed around Positive Youth Development (PYD)
- Learn about best practices and challenges of young people, policy makers and practitioners from the global south (i.e., MENA region) working on youth systems strengthening.
- Establish a learning space for young people, policy makers and practitioners from different geographical locations (north-south, south-south) to share their reflections, practices, strategies, tools, and lessons learned working with youth and youth systems.



# Positive Youth Development

PYD programs recognize young peoples' inherent rights and result in youth who have **assets**, the ability to leverage those assets (**agency**), and the ability to **contribute** to positive change for themselves and their communities, surrounded by an **enabling environment** that supports them.



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# MENA Youth Community of Practice (CoP)



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# Introduction to MENA Youth CoP

- MENA Youth CoP is one of the larger YouthPower2 Learn Networks launched in March 2021 and it is one of a kind in the network as it's geographically focused and generic, meaning it focuses on youth programming regardless of the thematic work.
- The MENA Youth CoP works on fostering learning, knowledge sharing, collaboration among youth stakeholders, and sharing creative ideas, solutions, and content.
- The MENA Youth CoP works on targeting youth development practitioners, organisations and donors from the region or those who are working for it and prioritise highlighting the voices of practitioners and youth from the region.
- The MENA Youth CoP works on four main activities: Learning webinars, Podcasts, Blogs, and Resource sharing; all consider the Arabic language as the primary language of our activities.

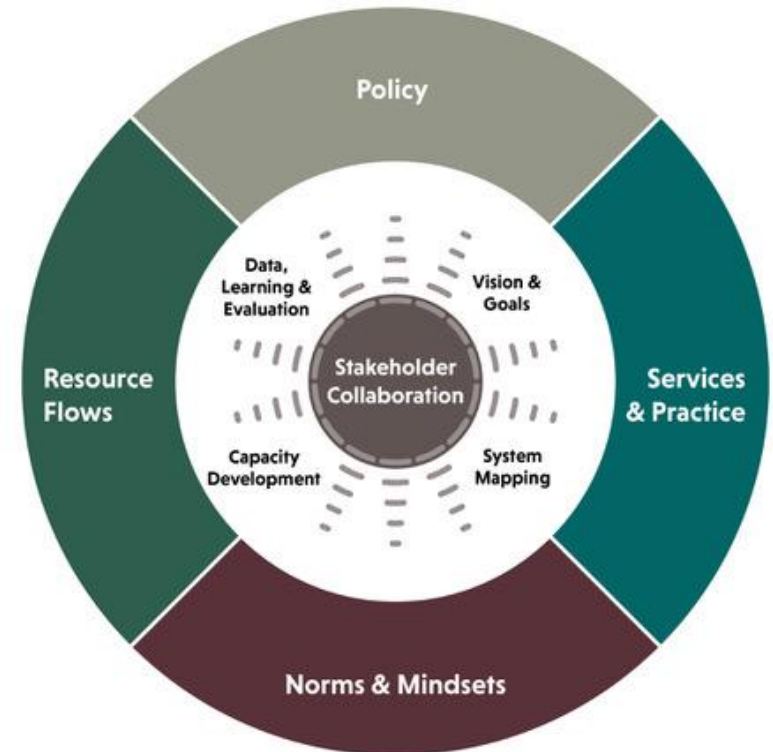
# Youth Systems Strengthening Community of Practice (CoP)

The Youth Systems Strengthening (YSS) CoP aims to provide an open learning and sharing space that allows participants to understand more about the purposes, processes and outcomes associated with reforming systems that impact youth outcomes sustainably and at scale.

## Discussion Group Link:

<https://www.youthpower.org/group/youth-systems-strengthening-community-practice>

Youth Systems Framework  
by the Youth Systems Collaborative<sup>SM</sup>



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# Youth Systems Collaborative (YSC)

**The Youth Systems Collaborative<sup>SM</sup>** is a network of international organizations seeking to learn about comprehensive systems change efforts that improve life outcomes for youth in low- and middle-income countries.



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# USAID YOUTHPOWER JORDAN ACTIVITY



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## Intended Results

**Increased awareness and use of existing programs and positive opportunities by youth**

**Improved quality of available services and positive opportunities for youth**

**Strengthened engagement of youth in the development of new activities**

**Increased opportunities for positive youth engagement**

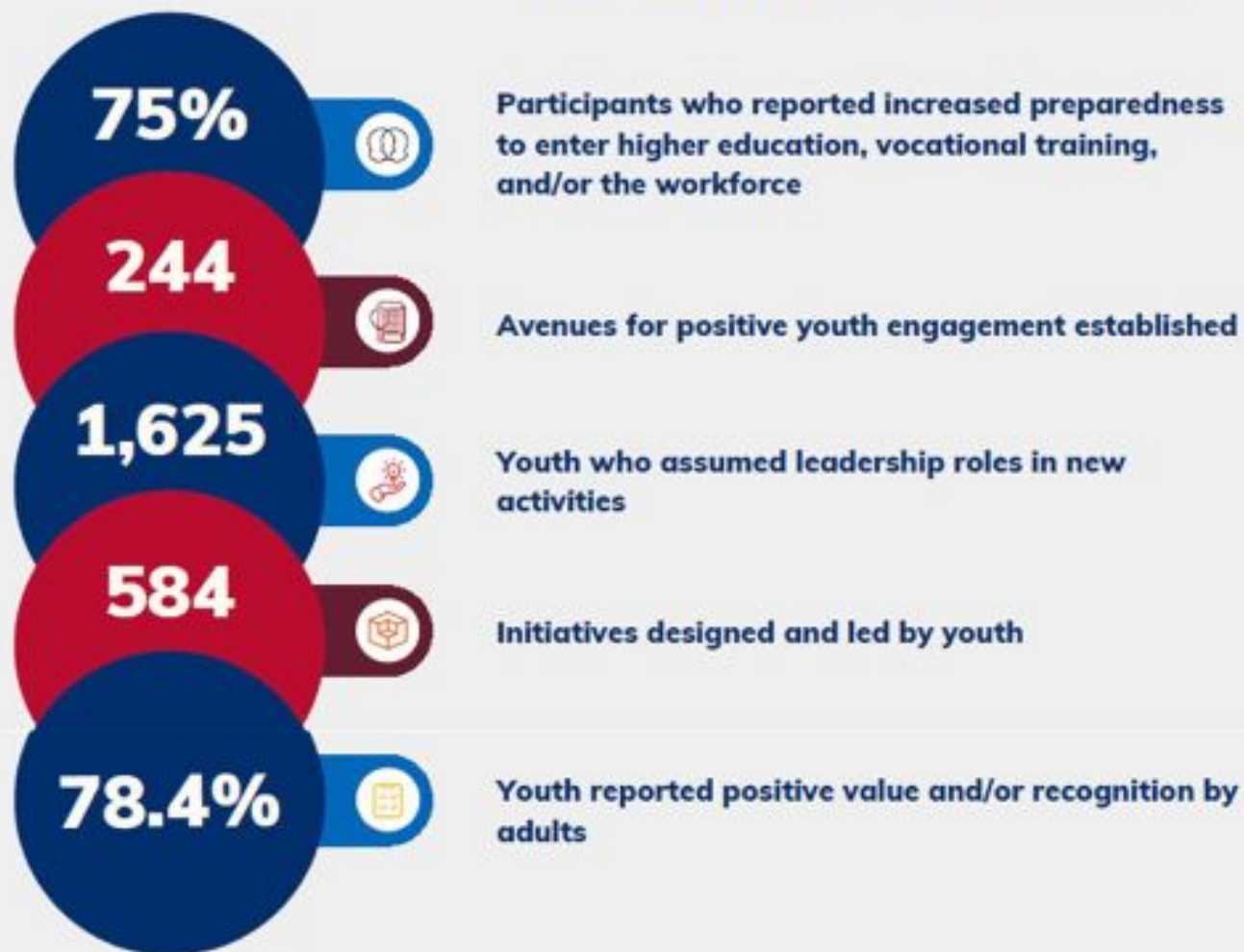
**Improved enabling environment for positive youth engagement**



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## USAID YouthPower Results



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# USAID YOUTHPOWER National Scalable Strategies

**Youth in Governance**

**Youth Economic Empowerment**

**Youth Leaders and Influencers**



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## Strategy #1 Youth in Governance

### Facilitate Youth Ownership

- Mobilize and train youth on local policy development from a youth perspective
- Utilize the VAN as a youth-led network on social and economic priorities
- Youth set their own priorities to communicate with decision makers

### Accompany Youth As They Engage

- Link youth to experts and influencers
- Partner with civil society
- Provide safe spaces through youth units in municipalities

### Facilitate Participation in Governance

- Link youth with municipalities and local media
- Develop evidence-driven policy papers and initiatives

### Create National Linkages

- Link youth to decision makers and CBOs for exposure at the national level

### Sustain Youth Momentum

- Ongoing mentorship and networks
- Develop action plans to sustain the partnership between the youth units and local government entities



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# Youth in Governance **Results**

**300 VANers engaged an additional 1,107 youth (658 female, 449 male) & connected with hundreds of decision makers to:**

**Develop 36 policy papers with data-driven recommendations**

**Implement 12 youth-led initiatives to improve municipal performance**

**Implement 72 youth-led initiatives under the National Youth Strategy (2019-2025)**

**Establish 5 youth units within municipalities**



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# Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Youth ownership and leadership throughout the program cycle is essential

Integrate youth-focused capacity building on good governance into existing mechanisms

Establish formal government partnerships from the start

Create mechanisms for youth participation within the national government.

Establish and formalize youth units across municipalities



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## Strategy #2 Youth Economic Empowerment

### Facilitate Youth Ownership

Youth organize around areas of interest and local economic and market needs from their perspective

### Create Multisector Partnership Networks

- Connect youth to industry experts
- Partnerships apply a positive youth development approach

### Foster an Enabling Environment

- Create linkages to the market and among youth
- Establish physical avenues for collaboration among youth and with local communities
- Shift mindsets at the individual and household levels to support innovation and entrepreneurship

### Grow Youth Experience & Opportunities

- Youth receive funded opportunities to establish youth led business
- concepts Youth innovate in a safe, enabling environment while receiving training, mentorship, and feedback

### Implement Youth Business Concepts

- Launch and grow replicable, commercially viable youth business concepts



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# Youth Economic Empowerment Results

153 youth business concepts awarded in-kind grants.

108 youth-led initiatives under thematic grantees.

648 youth received in-demand vocational training.

10,250 youth received soft skills/life skills training.

Over 1500 industry networks were created.



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# Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Start with needs and passions identified by youth

Recognize that the youth entrepreneurial journey takes time

Refine the youth business model

Establish a referral system for the low-risk funding source

Embed innovation in government ministries that impact youth:

Remain flexible throughout the funding cycle to seize youth interests and opportunities



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## Strategy #3 Youth Leaders and Influencers

### Mobilize and train youth

- Organize and train youth based on clear needs and goals

### Peer-to-peer mobilization

- Youth lead mobilization and training of peer groups
- Youth position themselves as change makers in their communities

### Organize for collective action

- Youth independently design and lead advocacy efforts
- Youth become locally institutionalized mechanisms for change



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# Youth Leaders & Influencers Results



Youth frequently presented policies and recommendations to government

## 300 VANers

- Reached 1,107 additional youth
- Led 72 initiatives under the National Youth Strategy (2019-2025)

## 20 Gender Champions

- Grew to a group of 300 youth
- Established national-level partnerships for GBV awareness and prevention

## 1,102 youth trainers & facilitators

- Trained an additional 11,654 youth
- Contributed to hundreds of youth-led initiatives



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# Lessons Learned and Recommendations

**Continue to invest in the youth cadre**

**Establish dedicated partnerships with national-level entities**

**Formalize youth cadres into NGOs, businesses, or other official entities**

**Formalize and expand youth units and learning clubs as sustained mechanisms**



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# Breakout Sessions



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# Discussion Questions - Policy

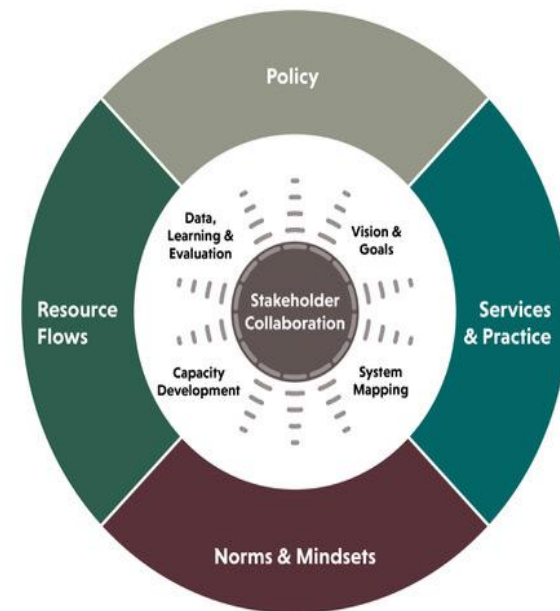
## Arabic

1. ما تم تعلمه عن القوة والقيود وإمكانات مساهمة الشباب في إصلاح السياسات ، لا سيما فيما يتعلق بالقيادة القائمة للفاعلين والمؤسسات التي يقودها الكبار عبر الثقافات ، ما تم تعلمه عن قوة وقيود وإمكانات مساهمة الشباب في تغيير الأنظمة في الخدمات والممارسات التي يمكن أن تجعل الارتباطات المستقبلية أكثر تأثيراً؟
2. ما هي أشكال الدعم أو الإجراءات اللازمة لرفع مستوى دور الجهات الفاعلة في النظام المحلي ، بما في ذلك الشباب ، للعمل كعامل أساسي لمراجعة السياسات وإصلاحها؟
3. ما الأدوار المناسبة للمانحين الدوليين وشركائهم المنفذين الذين يسعون إلى دعم هذه الإجراءات نحو إصلاح السياسات وجهود تغيير أنظمة الشباب المحلية الأكثر استدامة؟

## English

1. What has been learned about the power, limitations, and potential of youth contribution to policy reform, especially as it relates to existing adult leadership and adult-led institutions across cultures, What has been learned about the power, limitations and potential of youth contribution to systems change in services and practices that can make future engagements more impactful??
2. What supports or actions are needed to elevate the role of local system actors, including young people, to serve in a backbone function for policy review and reform?
3. What are the appropriate roles of international donors and their implementing partners who seek to support these actions towards policy reform and more sustainable, locally led youth systems change efforts?

Youth Systems Framework  
by the Youth Systems Collaborative™



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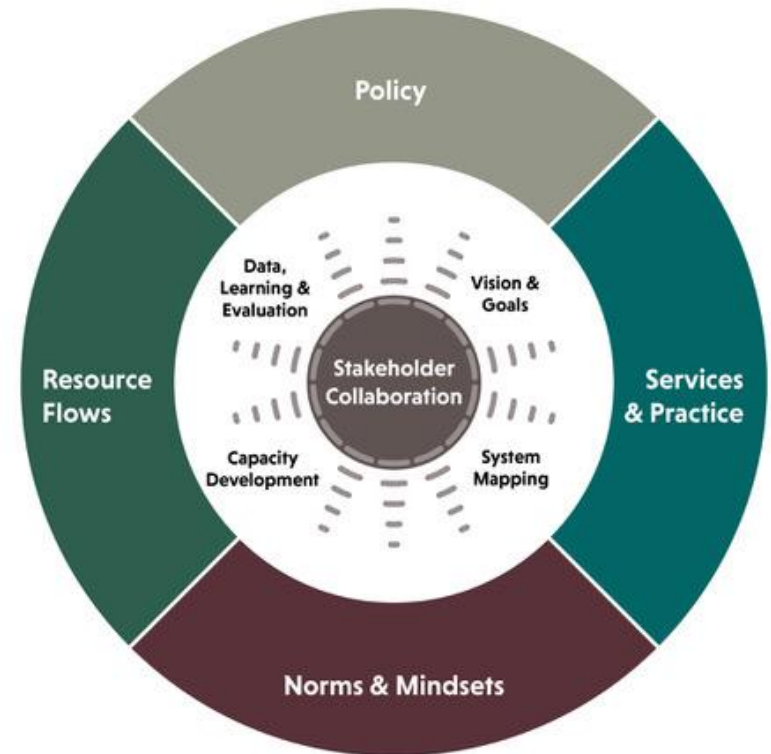
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# Discussion Questions - Services and Practice

1. What has been learned about the power, limitations and potential of youth contribution to systems change in services and practices, especially as it relates to existing adult leadership and adult-led institutions across cultures, that can make future engagements more impactful?
2. What supports or actions are needed to elevate the role of local system actors to serve in a backbone function for youth systems change efforts?
3. What are the implications of these newer roles and what changes are needed in the future for development practice (especially in terms of assessment, project design, procurement, implementation approaches?)
4. What should a potential future project set as priorities to raise success rates of young entrepreneurs?

Youth Systems Framework  
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# Report back

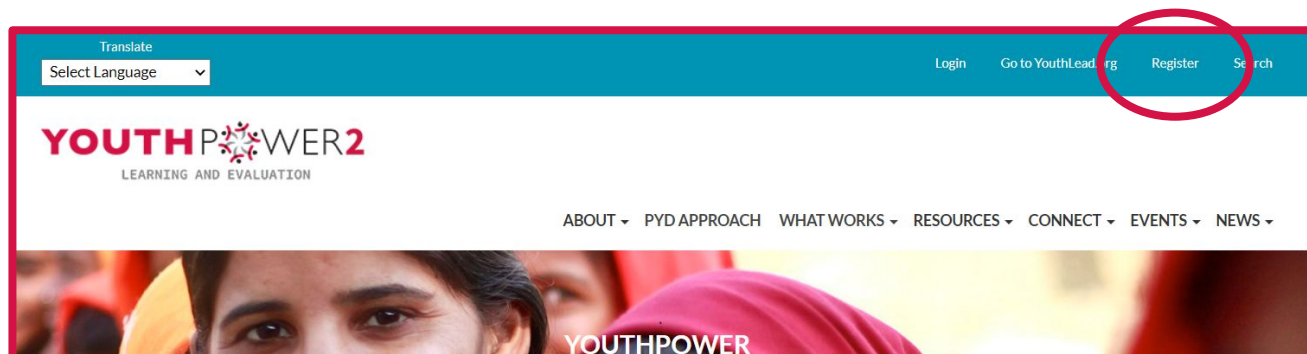


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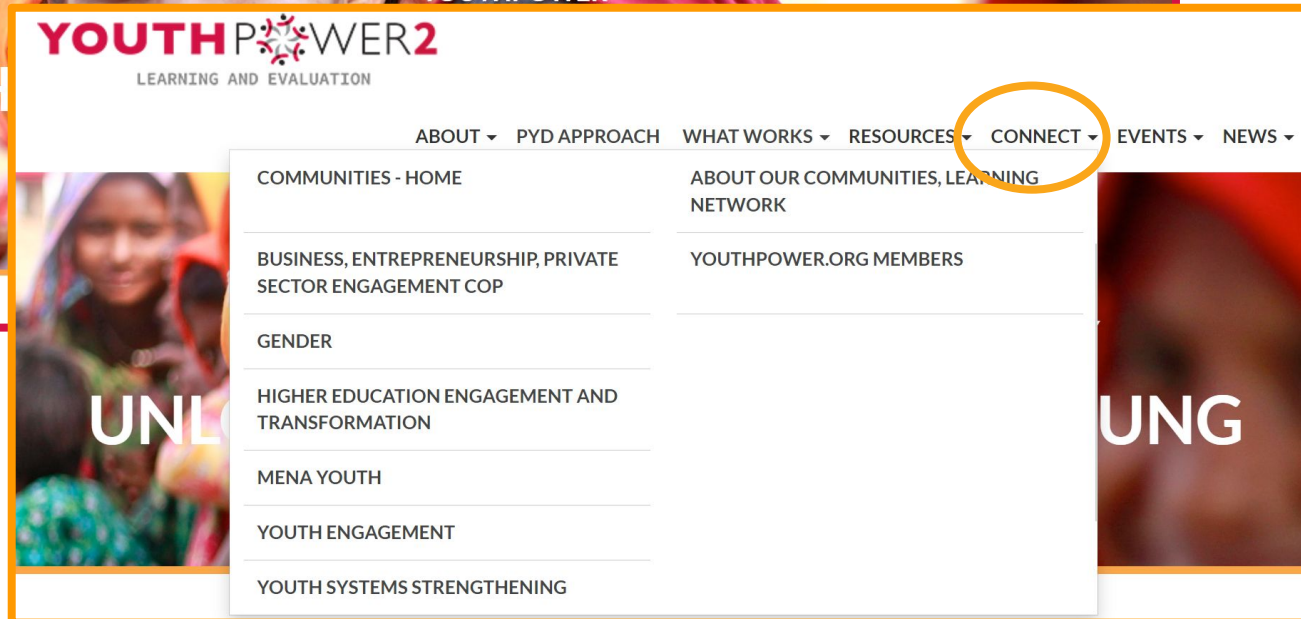
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# How to join: <https://www.youthpower.org/>



**Register** on  
YouthPower.org



**Connect** with  
others through the  
CoP pages,  
discussion groups,  
and future events



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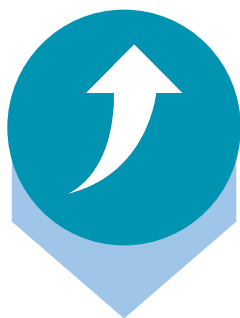
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# Upcoming Learning Network Events

Find details and register on the [YouthPower.org Events](https://youthpower.org/events) page



**August 11, 2022: International Youth Day Event:**  
Intergenerational Solidarity: Inclusion, Protection, and Mental Well-Being



Other upcoming events on a youth-focused labor market assessment in Ethiopia and more!



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# THANK YOU!

*This presentation is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), under the terms of YouthPower 2: Learning and Evaluation AID Contract #47QRAA19D0006K/7200AA19M00018. The authors' views expressed in this presentation do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.*



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