

Walking the walk: Action-Oriented Approaches to Putting Youth in the Lead

James Karongo, Regional Program Officer, IREX Kenya

Brenda Xum, Regional Program Officer, IREX Guatemala

Laith Abu Taleb, Youth Excel Youth Council, Jordan/Mexico

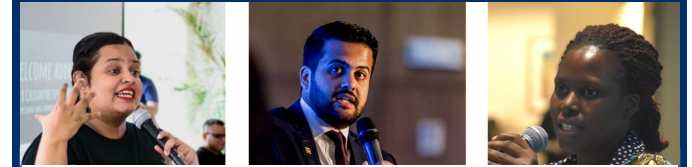
Alejandra Teleguario, Young Researcher, Guatemala

Silvy Kananu, Project Lead, IREX Kenya

-Youth Excel-



YouthPower2 Symposium



NOVEMBER 9-10, 2021

Straight from the Source:
Perspectives on Effective
Youth-Driven Programming
Symposium

WWW.YOUTHPower2.ORG

Agenda

- About Youth Excel
- A framework to support youth-led development
- Perspectives on youth voice. *Video*
- Discussion / Q & A



Youth Excel helps local youth organizations:



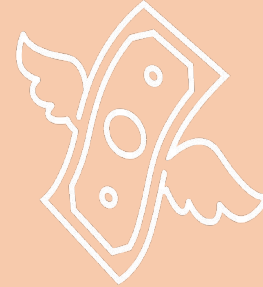
Generate
research
and
evidence for
youth
programming.



Help youth
strengthen
capacity for
research and
strengthening
their own
programming.



Tackle
youth-adult
power
differentials
and prioritize
inclusion of
under-repre-
sented groups.



Channel
resources to
local youth-led
and
youth-serving
organizations.

THROUGH:

**Implementation
Research**

**Intergenerational
Dialogue**

**Knowledge
mobilization**



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In the chat box....

What challenges do you face when seeking to make programs youth-inclusive?



From talk-to-walk: **PYD Management Principles**



**Positive Youth Development (PYD)
Inclusive Management Principles**

Centering youth priorities

Youth Excel **shifts power to youth leaders** with an **intersectional, gendered** lens in every aspect of implementation.

- ☐ Leadership & governance
- ☐ Partnerships
- ☐ Participant engagement and grant-making
- ☐ Research and technical design
- ☐ Accountability



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Principle I: Putting youth in the lead - Staff Team



Silvy Kananu
Project Lead, Kenya



Hafez Neeno
Regional Lead/Senior
Capacity-Building Advisor,
Jordan



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Regional Program
Officer, Kenya



Brenda Xum
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Officer, Jordan



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Mobilization Officer,
Guatemala



Zaira Lainez
Global GESI Officer
Guatemala



Clion Okoth
Finance & Administration
Assistant, Kenya



Frank Chege
Global MEL Advisor,
Kenya



Rachel Surkin
Consortium
Lead, DC



Brian Batayeh
Implementation Research
Technical Specialist, DC



Kayla Caldwell
Subgrants & Capacity
Officer, DC



Rosemary Manu
Program Coordinator,
DC



Maria Paola Silva
Intern, DC



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Principle I: Putting youth in the lead - Global Youth Advisory Council



Learn more about [our members](#).

Nominated by Consortium YLO partners

Selected by Youth team members

Youth Excel GYAC Roles:

- ❑ **Advisory:** *Input to approaches, technical products, and brand.*
- ❑ **Representation:** *Co-lead and external representation*
- ❑ **Governance & Decision-Making:** *Participate in decision-making on grantee selection, thematic focus, and more.*



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Global Youth Advisory Council

Grant competition themes-GYAC

padlet.com/excelyouth/axphs9w6rbii6ril

Apps Silvy Kananu | Lear... Work Apart 2_LH_O... Work Apart 2_Activi... FY22 Team Member... Socioeconomic Res... Cisco Digital Readin... Reading list

excelyouth • 7mo

Grant competition themes-GYAC Input

Vote for only up to two themes per person! (vote by giving a thumbs up)

Youth advancing youth, peace, and security through local-level social cohesion

1 0

Add comment

Access/return to secondary or TVET education for youth with disabilities

1 0

Anonymous 8mo
Also, support their transition into the job market.

Add comment

Youth-led innovation to address climate change

5 0

Add comment

Youth-led interventions to increase women and girls' safety and mobility

8 0

Anonymous 8mo
+ digital safety

Anonymous 8mo
+1 digital safety

Add comment

(GBV and) Mental health support for vulnerable youth

7 0

Add comment

Any additional thoughts on themes?

1 0

Anonymous 8mo
Girls and women Skill training (digital skills to generate income)

Anonymous 8mo
Vocational training for young girls

Anonymous 8mo
Youth unemployment.

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IREX

Guatemala El Salvador Honduras Nicaragua Dominican Republic

Deadline to apply April 23, 2021
Fecha límite: 23 de abril, 2021

ANNOUNCING YOUTH EXCEL GRANT COMPETITION

Funding projects that focus on improving young women's and girls' safety and mobility in Central America and the Caribbean.

#YEGrantCompetition

ANUNCIANDO EL CONCURSO DE SUBVENCIONES DE YOUTH EXCEL

Proyectos de financiación que se centran en mejorar la Seguridad y Movilidad de Mujeres Jóvenes y Niñas en Centroamérica y el Caribe.

#YEGrantCompetition

youth venture ROOT CHANGE SEARCH FOR COMMON Aبعاد abjad THE B12 Nation THE YOUTH ENTRE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION + HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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Youth Excel Our Knowledge, Leading Change

CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES

Youth Excel is seeking concept notes from local youth-led and youth-serving organizations to strengthen mental health and psychosocial support for marginalized and vulnerable youth in East Africa and Southern Africa.

Deadline to apply is August 11, 2021

#YEMentalHealth

IREX youth venture ROOT CHANGE SEARCH FOR COMMON Aبعاد THE B12 Nation THE YOUTH ENTRE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION + HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Does it make a difference?



*" Connecting across borders and thematic issues has created a safe space to unlearn, relearn and learn what it means to **meaningfully engage young people** across the development, policy and impact-making value chain" -Dumi Gatsha-*

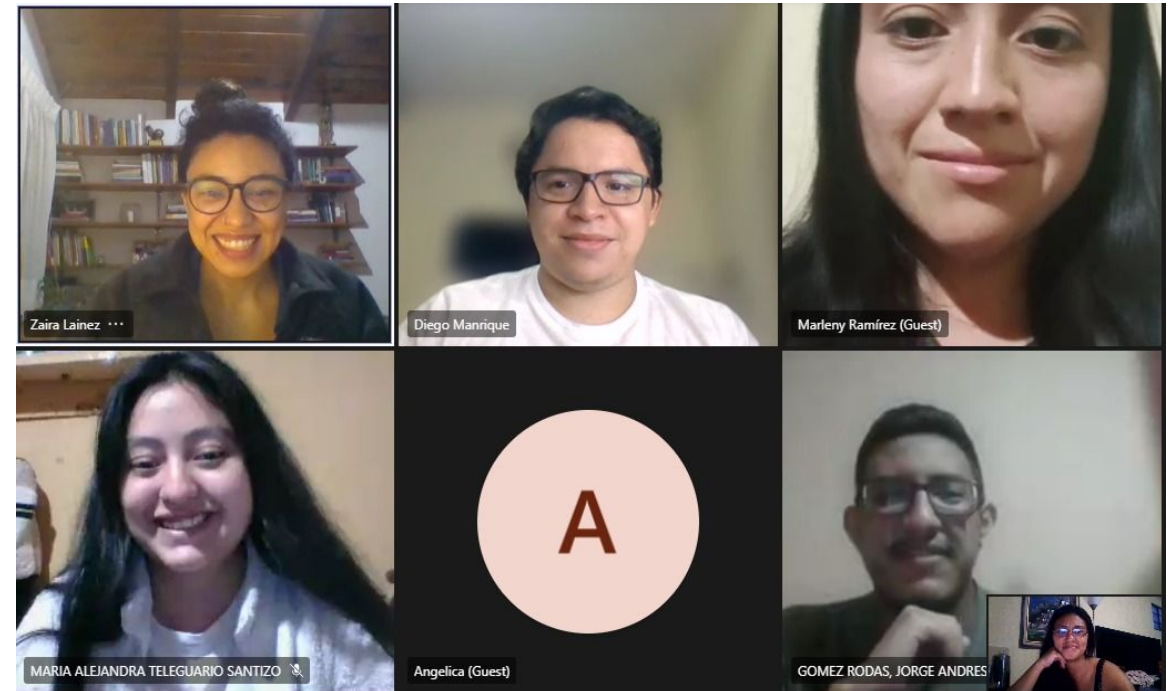
*" By having an active participation in all the meetings and events, it helped me **to appreciate my voice and my impact more** when I see how the team is interacting with any new ideas we put on the table..." -Laith Abu Taleb-*



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**When you hear about
youth-led research,
what immediately
comes to mind?**



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Principle 1: Youth in the lead - youth-led research

iRGPA: intersectional rapid gender and protection assessment to surface the gender equality and social inclusion issues in a locality, done prior to conducting an activity.

Research assumptions represent the lived reality of youth, instead of 'evidence' from external sources.

Research for young people, by young people – youth perspectives impact data analysis in important ways.

Provides a platform for youth to share findings with adult stakeholders

Youth are credible knowledge producers **AND** the body of knowledge is enriched.

Ignites passion for research; promotes learning mindset

Youth gain courage and see themselves as agents of change



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Does it make a difference?

“I’ve never been in a youth-led position, I was used to be told what to do. This made me feel more committed.”

-Young Researcher, Guatemala-

“Being able to influence conversations dedicated towards improving the lives of other youths like me is the first step to a better society.”

-Young Researcher, Kenya-

“We know the reality too; we can adapt the language to the youth needs. It’s necessary to change the way of how we look [at] youth and give them voice”.

-Young Researcher, Guatemala-



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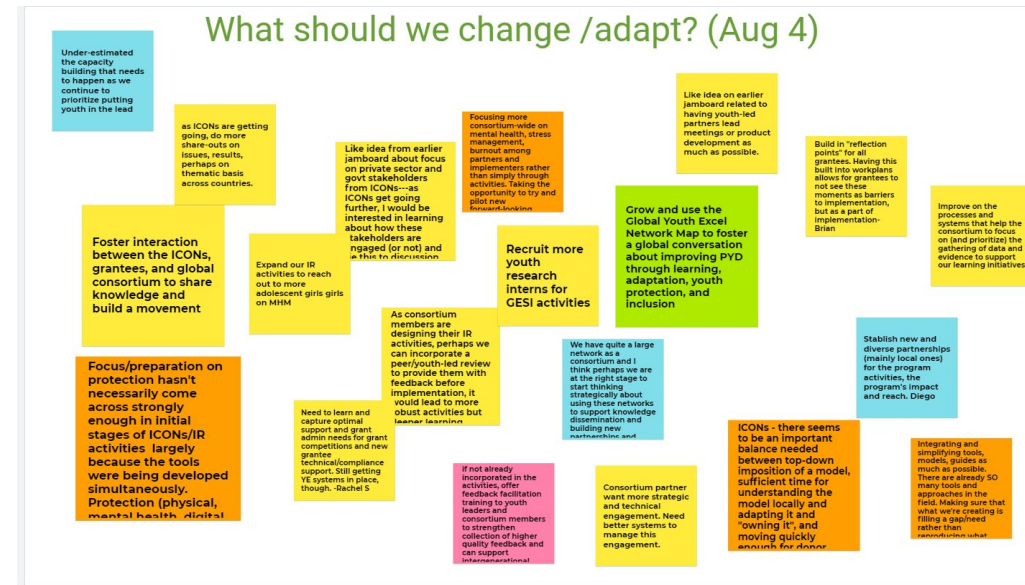
Principle 2: Reduced intersectional power differentials

Proposal and work planning:

- Partners review and give input to full documents, & are encouraged to disagree

Youth-Friendly Grant-making

- Active measures to address bias in selection and promote inclusion.
(Selection criteria, peer review, bias training)

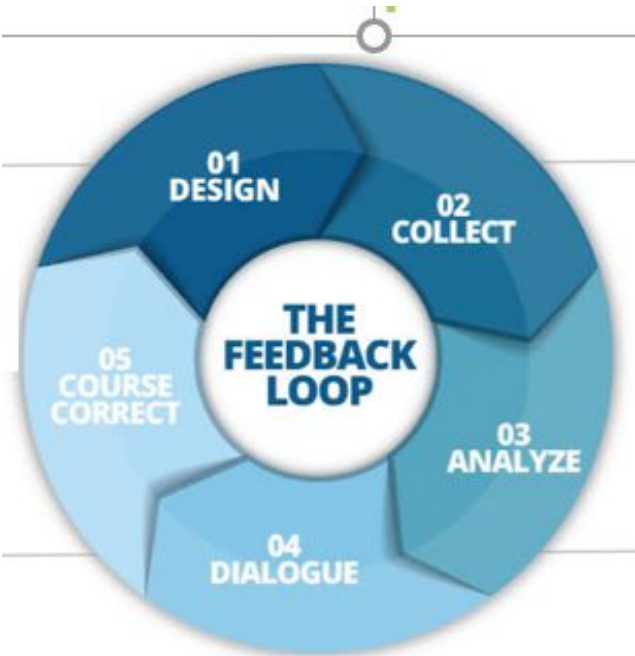


"This is new and interesting. Blind scoring will make it very transparent. looking forward to the process"

-Sellah Lusweti, Participatory Grant Making Webinar participant-

Principle 2: Reduced intersectional power differentials

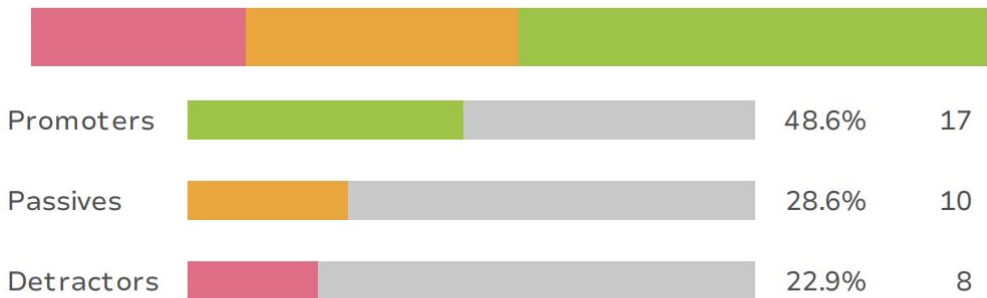
Consortium Equity Tool



- Addresses four dimensions: Leadership, Mutuality, Connectivity, and Finance
- Bi-annual anonymous surveys.
- Feedback dialogues.
- Identify and implement *course-corrections*.

5. How comfortable do you feel expressing your views when you disagree with consortium partners' ideas or actions? (0 = not at all comfortable, 10 = very comfortable)

NPS® Score: 25.7



Totals: 35

Principle 6: Equitable, transparent, collaborative partnerships

Example: Kenya ICON activity in partnership with local partner, LakeHub

Co-leadership model in activity implementation e.g. Shared workshop facilitation

Joint design sessions and content review

Partner grant approval and issuance authority

Mutual feedback to improve the partnership



**We asked our youth partners in Youth Excel
to share their views on youth voice in
Youth Excel, here's what they had...**



**youth
venture**



SEARCH
FOR **COMMON**
GROUND

أبعاد
abjad

THE
B12
Nation



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
• HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Believe to Discover



Questions?

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