

## USAID YouthPower2 Symposium (November 9-10, 2021)

# SESSION NOTES

## Global LEAD: USAID Partnering with 1 million Young Changemakers

**Tuesday, November 9, 2021 – DAY ONE**  
**11:55 AM – 12:50 PM**  
**Plenary Session**

### Session Participants

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Presenters:

Jessie Elisberg, Global LEAD Specialist, USAID

Mike McCabe, Agency Senior Advisor on Youth, USAID

Hilary Taft, Technical Specialist for Youth Issues, USAID

### Session Overview

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USAID's Global LEAD initiative aims to mobilize one million young leaders to guide their countries' progress on human rights, climate action, fair governance, job skills, global health, and violence prevention, among other key challenges. The initiative partners with young leaders, higher education institutions, civil society, and others to support young changemakers. A new Global LEAD toolkit will launch in November 2021. This session will include a discussion with young people about what does and does not work in including youth voices and building opportunities for youth civic participation and leadership and will allow participants to get a first look at the Global LEAD toolkit and its resources.

### Proposed Learning

*Participants will come away with a new understanding of USAID's commitment to working with young people through the Global LEAD initiative, along with practical recommendations from young people and an understanding of how to use the Global LEAD toolkit to improve youth programming at our Missions/OUs.*

### Session Notes

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**Main Topic: The session introduces Global LEAD's flagship initiative and builds on PYD to grow from development to collective action for change. It also reviews creating new partnerships.**

Global Leadership and Education for Advancing Development (Global LEAD) is USAID's initiative to partner with young people and meet development objectives and the SDGs through enhanced education, civic/political engagement, and leadership opportunities across sectors Agency-wide. Young people are already leading. The priorities for Global LEAD align with the SDGs.

Examples of Country-Specific Initiatives Aligned with Global LEAD: Guatemala, North Macedonia, and Rwanda:

### **Guatemala: Puentes Program**

The program focuses on youth networks, digital literacy training, scholarships, youth centers, internships, and apprenticeships.

- Supports youth in high migration areas of Guatemala with access to education, employment, entrepreneurship opportunities, and life skills
- Puentes will support 25,000 vulnerable youth and works to train providers to improve the quality of their programs

### **North Macedonia: Youth Ethnic Integration**

The program focuses on advocacy training, civic education, youth clubs, youth centers

- Fosters positive interactions among ethnically diverse youth at the school and community level
- Introduced contemporary civic education curricula

### **Rwanda: CyberRwanda**

The program focuses on leadership training, youth-led media and art, peer educators, peer mentors, and digital literacy training.

- A digital platform that uses technology to improve the health and livelihoods of urban adolescents

**Discussion-** Discussion between Mike McCabe and three youth changemakers, Daryna Onyshko (Ukraine), Anai Salaza (Guatemala), and Anne Roshi (Sri Lanka).

Daryna Onyshko (Ukraine):

- It's important to see youth as partners and changemakers. Training programs, uniting youth around areas that interest them, including them in discussions with leaders
- social media and digital spaces should be areas for youth engagement

Anai Salaza (Guatemala):

- platforms: allow youth to pass through a spectrum of youth engagement; partnership
- youth organizations can dissolve after meeting an initial objective because there isn't sustainability
- suggestion: focus on strengthening existing youth programs over creating new ones
- think locally, and don't be afraid to allow youth to participate in the design of interventions. Provide professional opportunities for young people

Anne Roshi (Sri Lanka):

- focus more on diversity, gender violence, and lack of opportunity/marginalization during implementation

## Global LEAD Toolkit includes

- guidance on program planning
- adaptable intervention models (26)
- Sector-specific guidance
- networks and communities of practice
- PDF version is available now; the Adaptable Intervention Model Database

For planning a new youth program, while this toolkit focuses more specifically on programs that align with the Global LEAD Framework, some general guidance and helpful resources are included in the toolkit. This gives you a place to start when you are ready to begin planning a new program or project.

In the *Sector-Specific Programming* section of the Global LEAD toolkit, you will find a curation of resources specific to different sectors of programming. Also, *explore adaptable intervention models*: Youth Advisory Councils, Youth-Led Media, Art, or Performance, Internships and Apprenticeships, Advocacy Training, Project-Based or Service Learning, and Public or Community Dialogue.

### **Takeaways for USAID:**

Focus on strengthening existing youth organization programs instead of creating new ones and ensuring youth interact with high-level policymakers/senior leaders.

### **Takeaways for Donors, Partners, and Implementers:**

Engage youth in digital spaces. Focus more on diversity, gender violence, and lack of opportunity/marginalization during implementation. Begin to think locally and don't be afraid to allow youth to participate in the design of interventions. Provide professional opportunities for young people. The GlobalLEAD toolkit will be very helpful in adding adaptable interventions to programs.

### **Takeaways for Youth:**

Youth can and should expect partnership in implementing youth programming. Engage with USAID using the Global LEAD initiative.

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## Session Quotes:

“Young people are some of our strongest partners in securing peace and progress on the ground.”

- **Samantha Power** shared in the session

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“supporting long-term partnerships with generation 2030.”

- **Mike McCabe**, Agency Senior Advisor on Youth, USAID

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“Organizations working with youth also need to consider environments where youth engage the most, such as digital spaces.”

- **Daryna**

## Resources

**Global LEAD Toolkit:** [https://www.youthpower.org/sites/default/files/YouthPower/files/resources/Global-LEAD-toolkit\\_110421.pdf](https://www.youthpower.org/sites/default/files/YouthPower/files/resources/Global-LEAD-toolkit_110421.pdf)

**Adaptable Intervention Model Database:**

<https://www.youthpower.org/sites/default/files/YouthPower/files/resources/Global%20LEAD%20Toolkit%20-%20Adaptable%20Intervention%20Models%20Database.pdf>