



YouthPower Annual Learning Network Meeting

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Achieving Impact and Measuring PYD Interventions

Moderators

Cassandra Jessee
YouthPower Learning

Panelists

- **Chisina Kapungu**, YouthPower Learning
- **Sajeda Amin**, Population Council, BALIKA project
- **Jeff Edmeades**, International Center for Research on Women
- **Roselyn Mugo**, Youth Think Tank Researcher, Kenya

A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES



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USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



PEPFAR
U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

YOUTHPOWER
LEARNING

PYD Achieves Multiple Sector Outcomes

Crime &
Violence
Prevention

Delay of Sexual
Activity

Increased
Academic/Soft
Skills

Increased
Community
Engagement

Substance
Abuse
Prevention

Improved
Relationships

Research questions:

A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES



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1. How have PYD approaches been implemented in low- and middle-income countries?
2. What does the evidence say about their effectiveness?

Systematic Review of Positive Youth Development in LMICs

Search Criteria:

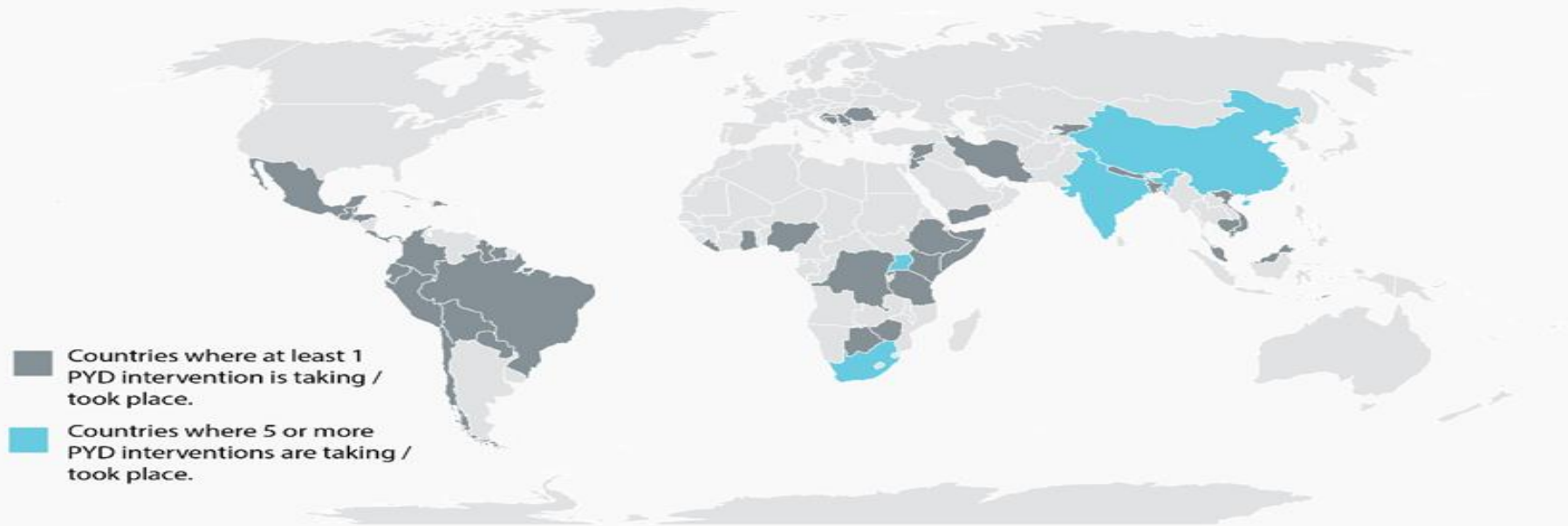
- Projects engaging youth (ages 10-29)
- Included at least 2 PYD-related outcomes within the domains of assets, agency, contribution and enabling environment
- Papers published between 1990 – 2015

Mixed Methods Approach:

- Systematic search for peer reviewed literature
- Purposive search and survey for grey literature: program descriptions, case studies, evaluations or end-of-project reports

Identified **108** reports on **97** programs implemented across **60** countries that primarily covered three sectors: health, democracy and governance, and economic development and education

What Does the Evidence Say about PYD in LMIC?



Workforce Readiness & Employability



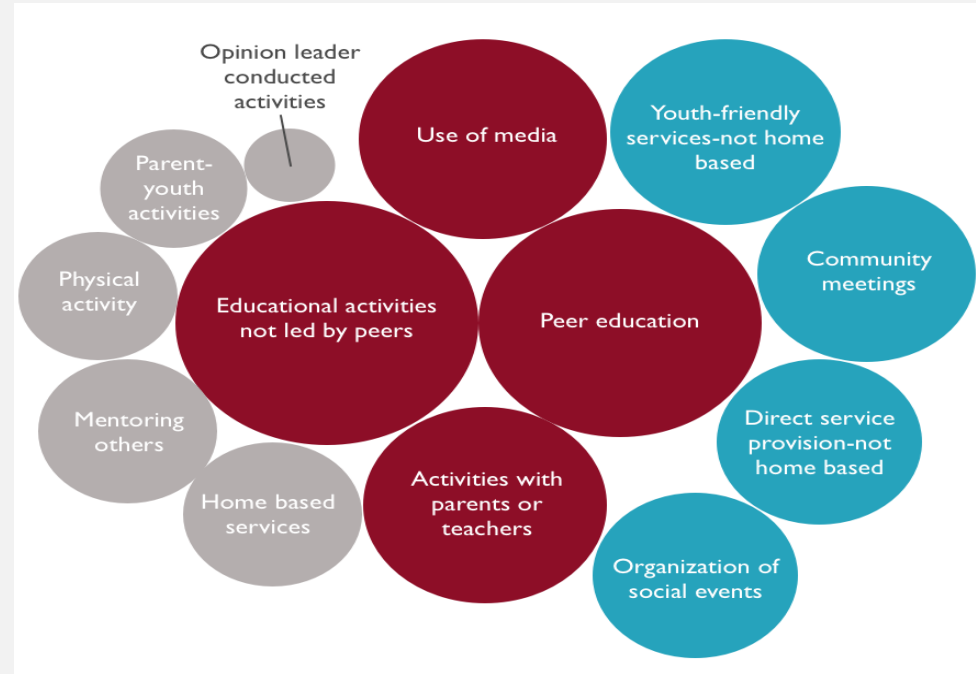
- Increased formal and self-employment, better quality of employment, and financial assets
- Increased voluntary contraceptive use, improved HIV and pregnancy
- Decreased child marriage, as well as improved community gender norms

HIV/AIDS and SRH

Characteristics of Effective Programs:

- Based on theoretical approaches
- Intervene at multiple levels (i.e. family, peer, community, etc.)
- Provide accurate information about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV, and methods to prevent pregnancy and STIs
- Provide skill-building activities focused on communication, negotiation and refusal skills
- Train teachers, community members or peer leaders to implement programs and use interactive modalities
- Address gender-related issues

Activities conducted in experimentally evaluated SRH and HIV/AIDS programs



HIV/AIDS and SRH



- Higher self-efficacy to use condoms with their partners
- Reduced sexual risk behaviors
- Adolescent girls report fewer incidents of unwilling sex
- Reduction of HIV related stigma
- More youth using SRH services
- Reduce teenage pregnancy

HIV/AIDS and SRH

Gender:

- Reduction in child marriage
- Girls with higher school status
- More participants with positive attitudes toward gender equality

Livelihoods:

- Youth with more experience in working for pay or generating their own businesses
- More youth with ability to generate income or assets

Mental Health and Solidarity:

- Better mental health outcomes
- Reduction in youth drug use
- Higher sense of solidarity and trust
- Increase in perception that teachers care about students

Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance

- Focus on building assets, including life skills and education about SRH, violence prevention, and human rights
- More likely to emphasize youth contribution
- Utilize media programming, meetings, and social events
- Outcomes include political empowerment, increased agency, self-efficacy, and social skills
- Decreased child marriage, as well as improved community gender norms were found in three studies

Recommendations for Programmatic Design

- Engage youth and key community stakeholders during program design and implementation
- Intervene at multiple levels
- Promote youth-led and youth-centered approaches
- Leverage existing evidence to improve the design of programs that target youth



Knowledge Development Opportunity

- Use PYD Measurement Toolkit to inform a more robust PYD design by establishing longitudinal relationships between PYD concepts and positive and problem outcomes
- Ensure that this investment develops new knowledge about what works in different contexts
- Consider ways to make programs more inclusive of marginalized groups
- Further gender integration in PYD programming

Impact Opportunity

- USAID Youth Policy based on PYD principles
- Training all staff on PYD for effective programming
- Expand the use of PYD across sectors and LMIC
- Support applied dissemination/implementation research of these programs
- PYD in LMIC has real potential to assist in creating equitable global youth development



THANK YOU!
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Discussion: Achieving Impact and Measuring PYD Interventions

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