

What is Positive Youth Development?

Positive Youth Development (PYD) engages youth, along with their families, communities and/or governments, so that youth are empowered to reach their full potential. PYD approaches build skills, assets and competencies; foster healthy relationships; strengthen the environment; and transform systems.



PYD transitions away from traditional approaches that respond to young people in a risk or problem frame.



Instead, PYD supports youth holistically, proactively fostering positive attributes that can lead to an improved quality of life.



Evidence from PYD programs shows that if young people have adequate knowledge, skills, and support, sector-specific outcomes will improve.



Improved outcomes may include quality of health, school and economic success, as well as meaningful contribution and engagement within communities.



Assets

Youth have the necessary resources, skills, and competencies to achieve desired outcomes.



Contribution

Youth are engaged as a source of change for their own and for their communities' positive development.



Agency

Youth perceive and can employ their assets and aspirations to make or influence their own decisions about their lives and set their own goals.



Enabling Environment

Youth are surrounded by an environment that maximizes their assets, agency, access to services, and opportunities.



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

YOUTH POWER
LEARNING

To learn more about Positive Youth Development, go to
<http://www.youthpower.org/positive-youth-development>