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**YOUTH POWER**  
ACTION



# YouthPower Action

YouthPower Action supports and advances USAID's Youth in Development Policy through evidence-based positive youth development programming across all sectors and country contexts by providing technical assistance to USAID Missions and operating units. YouthPower Action's activities increase youth engagement and youth voice to strengthen USAID's positive youth development programming. YouthPower Action supports USAID missions and operating units through a flexible buy-in mechanism.

## Current Activities

### Cross-sectoral Youth Assessment Tool

YouthPower Action developed Compass, a post-award activity assessment tool, to assist USAID projects to strengthen their youth programming by looking at strengths and gaps and creating an action plan to ensure effective program implementation and results. The Compass is shaped by three development approaches: positive youth development, cross-sectoral linkages, and gender.

### Positive Youth Development and Youth Engagement Training

YouthPower Action developed [YouthPower Youth Engagement Training in Dreams Countries](#) that has been implemented in five countries and a Positive Youth Development curriculum has been developed for USAID staff.

### Youth Cross-Sectoral Soft Skills Review and Measurement Tool

YouthPower Action has researched, written, and published three papers on soft skills.

- [Key Soft Skills For Cross-Sectoral Youth Outcomes](#)—identifies a key set of soft skills and life skills for workforce development, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and preventing violent behaviors
- [Guiding Principles for Building Soft and Life Skills Among Adolescents and Young Adults](#)—identifies six evidence-based principles to help foster soft skills and life skills
- [Measuring Soft and Life Skills in International Development Programs: A Review and Inventory of Tools](#)—reviews the state of the field in soft skills measurement, with detailed information and rating of existing measures in an inventory of more than 70 instruments; includes recommendations for improving soft skills measurement

YouthPower Action is developing a new tool based on the measurement paper that will be piloted and adapted for use across contexts and countries to provide a common means of measuring soft skills.

### YP Action Consortium Members

FHI 360 leads a consortium that includes: Management Systems International, Restless Development, Aga Khan Development Network, Marie Stopes International, TechnoServe, BBC Media Action, Inveneo, INJAZ Al-Arab, the Trust for the Americas, Youth Business International, IRH Georgetown, Stepping Stones International, NCBA CLUSA, and World University Services Canada. Small business partners include: Block by Block, Connexus, International Media Solutions, and LTG Associates.

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### **Integrated Health and Workforce Review and Pilot**

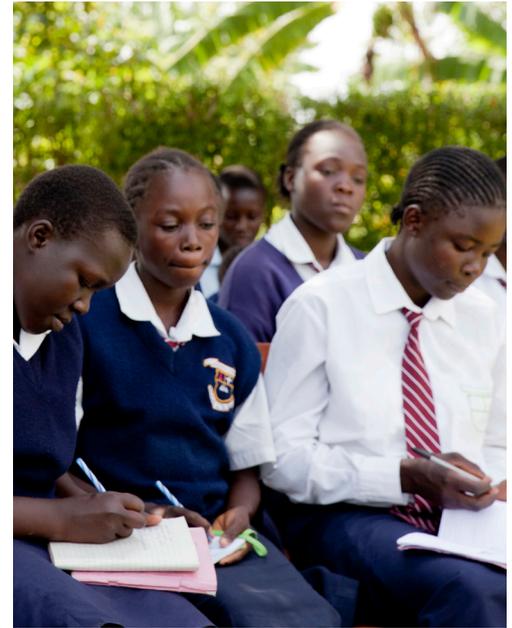
YouthPower Action carried out research to identify common elements of integrated workforce development and SRH programs and published [Assessment of Integrated Workforce Development and Sexual and Reproductive Health Interventions with Recommendations for the Future](#). The project will provide grant to implement the model that emerged from the research to build additional evidence on integrated programs.

### **Entrepreneurship Programming Guidance**

YouthPower Action reviewed the literature and analyzed the evidence of the impact of different donor-funded entrepreneurship programs to develop programming guidance for different target beneficiary groups.

### **Assessment of Health Workforce Programs**

YouthPower Action is reviewing programs in South Africa that support youth to enter the health and social sector workforce and will recommend ways to improve those programs. The primary focus of the assessment will be on programming that provides vocational training, career guidance, job placement, and/or related services to youth and linking them to entry- or mid-level employment opportunities that may be accessed by marginalized youth who may have some post-secondary education or less.



### **Support to Mozambican OVCs**

YouthPower Action has supported older orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), parents, and caregivers in Mozambique through two interventions. The first introduced a positive youth development approach to a comprehensive support program that reached more than 25,000 beneficiaries, targeting OVC ages 10–18 and youth-headed households and their families. The second activity expands an integrated youth development program for OVC ages 15–17 to increase their employability and basic education skills and improve their health knowledge and practices. The program includes an integrated curriculum that uses project-based learning, a remedial literacy program for selected youth, internships, e-mentoring, and youth-led clubs. Both activities work through local civil society organizations.

### **Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) Mentoring Pilot**

YouthPower Action developed an AGYW empowerment intervention that includes group mentoring, and curriculum-based programming that covers SRH, financial skills, life skills, and gender content. Activities build AGYW protective assets that can have a positive impact on SRH outcomes and behavior, academic achievement, financial behavior, and social networks. This approach is being piloted in Burundi and Uganda.

### **Enhancing Outcomes for AGYW in Burundi**

AGYW Burundi mitigates the risk of acquiring HIV for vulnerable adolescent girls (ages 10–18) in the Kayanza Province. Project activities will increase access to HIV and family planning services, educational opportunities, and improve financial skills and access to economic opportunities for AGYW and their families.

### **Improving Retention in Care and Adherence Review and Pilot**

This activity consists of 1) a review of the peer-reviewed and grey literature on evidence-based adult care and treatment programs that could be adapted for youth and two manuscripts to present the evidence; and 2) a pilot program and study of mHealth intervention in Nigeria for adolescents living with HIV and AIDS, offering psychosocial support through a chat platform and access to a trained counselor.

### **Journal Supplement on Linking Youth to HIV Testing and Treatment**

YouthPower Action commissioned a special supplement issue in AIDS entitled "[Achieving 90<sup>2</sup>: Young People, HIV Testing Services and Linkage to Treatment](#)" in order to share with funders, program planners, researchers, and policymakers current evidence that addresses HIV testing and linkage to care among youth populations.

**Period of Performance:** February 2015 to February 2020

**Current Countries of Implementation:** Global, Burundi, Mozambique, Uganda, Nigeria and South Africa