

YouthPower Action and YouthPower Learning The Power of Collaboration

USAID's YouthPower initiative strengthens local, national, and global systems to achieve sustainable, positive youth outcomes in health, education, and political and economic empowerment. The initiative consists of two complementary, agency-wide global indefinite delivery indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contracts, YouthPower: Implementation and YouthPower: Evidence and Evaluation. These IDIQs are mutually reinforcing – task orders under each IDIQ learn from and integrate the experiences of other task orders. As a whole, YouthPower supports cross-sectoral, positive youth development (PYD) investments that empower youth to reach their full potential. YouthPower supports the 2012 USAID Youth in Development Policy by focusing on improving the capacities and enabling the aspirations of youth so that they can contribute to and benefit from more stable and prosperous communities.

The first two projects under YouthPower are YouthPower: Implementation IDIQ- Task Order 1 (YouthPower Action), led by FHI 360, and YouthPower: Evidence and Evaluation- Task Order 1 (YouthPower Learning), led by Making Cents International. YouthPower Action and YouthPower Learning engage youth, families, community members and governments in all aspects of their work.

YouthPower Action, whose focus is on program implementation, implements comprehensive and multi-sectoral approaches and provides capacity building and technical assistance that is developmentally appropriate and meets the needs of adolescents and young adults.

YouthPower Learning, whose mandate applies to research, evaluation, and learning, can provide capacity building and technical assistance across these broad areas of work; develop and advise on monitoring and evaluation systems; design and implement process and impact evaluations, as well as lighter-touch assessments to inform program adjustments or future program design; support the design of new project designs; and conduct formative, implementation or operations research.

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YouthPower Action and YouthPower Learning Consortiums

FHI 360 leads YouthPower Action with its consortium of partners with a wide range of technical and geographic expertise. The full consortium 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.

Making Cents International leads YouthPower Learning, in collaboration with its partners the International Center for Research on Women; Results for Development Institute; Khulisa Management Services; Social Development Research Group at the University of Washington; Royal Children's Hospital Academic Centre at the University of Melbourne; and Young Americas Business Trust.



FHI 360

To learn more about positive youth development and cross-sectoral programming and the work of YouthPower, visit www.youthpower.org

As highly flexible buy-in mechanisms ending in 2020, YouthPower Action and YouthPower Learning can provide cross-sectoral expertise on a wide range of youth-related issues to support USAID missions and operating units. Missions, bureaus, and offices buy-in to YouthPower Action or YouthPower Learning independently or jointly, leveraging a:

- Unified framework between implementation and monitoring, evaluation, and learning.
- Shared common framework for measuring and implementing PYD and how PYD programming leads to positive youth outcomes.
- Common PYD terminology and tools/measures to monitor and evaluate the outcomes and impacts of youth programs.

By aligning and jointly working on design, monitoring and evaluation, and implementation, these two projects create greater synergy between learning and programming, add to the fidelity of implementation and evaluation, and ultimately provide more effective use of investments in supporting youth globally.

The field of positive youth development in low and middle income countries is relatively new and there is a need for enhancing the evidence base, piloting innovations, assessing impact, and adapting and learning before larger scale investments. By combining evaluative and implementation activities, YouthPower Learning and YouthPower Action can:

- Jointly design programs that build on the existing evidence base.
- Apply innovative approaches in programming and evaluation to ensure they gather evidence to fill existing knowledge gaps.
- Further the field of positive youth development and inform strategic investments for USAID and others.

Illustrative YouthPower Action and YouthPower Learning Collaboration Approach

Classic Joint Evaluation and Implementation Approach

- Design jointly program and evaluation
- Agree on theory of change
- Conduct baseline evaluation activity
- Implement program with fidelity
- Conduct follow-up evaluation activity
- Disseminate findings and incorporate learning into current or new program

Agile Approach to Learning and Innovation

- Jointly design, build and adapt with a focus on innovation
- Iterative process of testing innovations and providing feedback
- Rapid feedback loops that allow learning to be independent from implementation but integrated for project improvement
- Ability to test and improve innovations and pilots prior to larger scale investments

Illustrative Activities and Key Questions We Can Help Answer

- How to foster more integrated youth services to enhance youth outcomes
- What wrap around strategies are most effective for achieving health outcomes
- How to empower young women as decision makers in agriculture, nutrition and health
- What alternative education approaches are effective in reaching youth in refugee settings
- What are innovating ways to use technology to enhance financial literacy, improve civic participation, connect adolescents living HIV to peers and psycho-social supports
- How to integrate rural livelihoods and nutrition education for youth
- What are robust career pathways in health sectors for youth with secondary education
- What are non-linear career pathways for youth in agriculture
- How to apply PYD approaches in higher education
- What are innovative approaches for youth to be involved in CVE and peacebuilding efforts, including civic engagement, that have the potential to be scaled up

For more information on YouthPower Action and YouthPower Learning, please contact Elizabeth Berard (eberard@usaid.gov), Laurie Rushton (larushton@usaid.gov), and Calvin Robinson (crobenson@usaid.gov).