

YouthPower2: Learning and Evaluation



Background

With 1.2 billion youth in the world,¹ it is crucial that we meaningfully engage them to create positive social change for themselves, their families, and their communities in order for everyone to thrive. Positive Youth Development (PYD) is a widely-accepted philosophy and approach that, when applied appropriately, ensures youth are empowered to reach their full potential. PYD approaches build skills, assets, and competencies; foster healthy relationships; strengthen the environment; and transform systems. In 2015, USAID-funded the YouthPower Learning project to expand the evidence base for what works in PYD and build the capacity of youth development practitioners, researchers, and other relevant stakeholders to apply PYD on the ground. Building upon that success, the USAID-funded follow-on activity, YouthPower2: Learning and Evaluation (YP2LE), deepens the integration of PYD evidence and best practices into youth programming, ensuring more sustainable change.

Description

YP2LE activities bring USAID's Journey to Self-Reliance and Youth in Development Policy to life by enabling investments in PYD research and evaluation within and across multiple sectors, including health, education, agriculture/food security, economic opportunity, peace and security, democracy, and human rights and governance. YP2LE builds and disseminates PYD evidence across multiple sectors; offers leadership in promoting PYD best practices; and provides rapid response, technical assistance to USAID staff to design, implement, and evaluate youth activities.

YP2LE activities are designed to examine the impact of cross-sectoral youth programming, in collaboration with USAID, YouthPower implementing partners, PYD researchers, youth-led and youth-serving organizations, individual young change-makers, and other relevant stakeholders (e.g., USAID Washington-based instruments and country-level implementation mechanisms; other donors; U.S. government agencies; local and international civil society organizations; host-country governments; and multilateral agencies). The goal of these activities is to give practitioners the information, tools, and resources they need to develop high-quality, impactful, and sustainable youth programs, allowing empowered youth, working with supportive adults, to create the kind of sustainable change in individuals and systems that leads to self-reliance. YP2LE achieves this through a four-pronged approach.

¹ 2018 UN World Youth Report. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2018/12/WorldYouthReport-2030Agenda.pdf>

YP2LE TEAM

Research

Starting with the task of building cutting-edge, relevant PYD evidence, YP2LE brings together prominent researchers to answer the questions in USAID's PYD Learning Agenda and other youth development learning agendas aggregating priority themes and developing research and technical reports, guidance, and learning products on the results.

Learning Network

At the same time, YP2LE creates a vibrant Learning Network that engages a variety of relevant global stakeholders (including local, nontraditional partners and youth) to unlock collaborative learning and transform mindsets through innovation to improve skills, practices, and partnerships around international cross-sectoral PYD. The network strengthens public-private, multi-donor, and multi-stakeholder partnerships around PYD and engages young people.

Digital Platforms and Champions

YP2LE activities generates actionable knowledge, which is accessible both through our state-of-the-art learning and exchange platforms and through young changemakers, who amplify PYD lessons throughout their communities and networks.

Rapid Response Technical Support

YP2LE works collaboratively with missions and operating units, through a highly flexible buy-in mechanism, to develop and implement a scope of work with a PYD lens. This technical assistance can include performing country youth assessments as well as activity design and evaluation. The YP2LE team also provides advice on how to engage with youth and youth-led and youth-serving organizations as well as build the capacity of local institutions to design and conduct assessments and evaluations.

April 2020

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Partners:

FHI 360

Global Knowledge Initiative

International Center for Research on Women

Mathematica Policy Research

NORC

Restless Development

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