

Fostering Local Development: Holistic Economic Empowerment of Young Indigenous Women and GBV Prevention in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

Youth Excel's Issue-Based Collaborative Network (ICON)

Youth Excel supports young leaders and youth-led and youth serving organizations around the globe to use research and data to improve their own positive youth development programs. It helps young leaders leverage the research and data that they produce in intergenerational learning and dialogue to strengthen local, national, and global development outcomes.

What is an Issue-Based Collaborative Network (ICON)?

Youth Excel's ICON whole-system-in-the-room model convenes a diverse group of youth-led and youth-serving organizations and groups to form a place-based collaborative that collectively tackles a shared problem. The participants build skills in Research-to-Change (implementation research), conduct research to strengthen their own work, share data, create new knowledge collectively, learn from each other, and produce knowledge products to support youth advocacy and engage with local decision-makers.

Guatemala



Quetzaltenango ICON: fostering local economic development by promoting holistic economic empowerment of young indigenous women and gender based violence (GBV) prevention. Co-led by IREX and Ixoqib' Miriam and engaging diverse youth, youth-led/youth-serving organizations and groups.



IXOQIB' MIRIAM
Local organization working with indigenous women to enable them to be agents of change in a more equitable society.

In Quetzaltenango, indigenous populations make up over 51% of the population and there is little disaggregated data available. Overall, women are 50% less likely to find a job than men, but over half of all local businesses are led by women. Over 30% of youth surveyed in Youth Excel's youth-led study have experienced violence or are aware of it, and there is little data capturing impacts of violence to promote solutions.

Source: [Unequal Quetzaltenango](#)

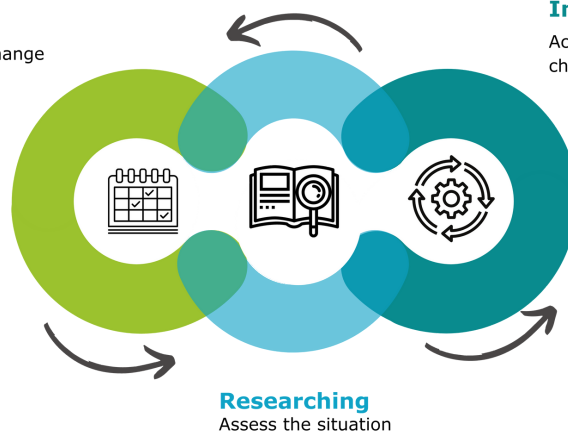
What is Research-to-Change?

Research-to-Change is concerned with understanding how and why interventions work under real world conditions so that implementation can be adapted and strengthened. It is participatory, it is iterative, it is inclusive. Organizations can use Research-to-Change as a tool to gather data, take what they learn, and turn it into what they do in real-time. Research-to-Change supports continued learning for stronger and more impactful interventions.

Research-to-Change and Ongoing Learning

Planning
Imagine the change

Implementing
Act to make the change



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ICON participants are youth-led and youth-serving organizations and groups. They develop learning goals to gather data about implementation factors such as feasibility, stakeholder and participant relevance, reach, effectiveness, and more. They each select appropriate research methodologies such as surveys, focus groups, interviews, and/or observations.

What do we want to learn?

We need to know to what extent women with disability are emotionally independent to adapt our program and make them feel in a space of trust and security both in the workshops and in their daily lives.

AMUDIQ

We need to know if, through the cooperative model, enterprises led by women are more viable and sustainable to adapt and strengthen the network's program.

RIDER

We need to know if youth know the procedures to apply for a job, and the profile that employers seek when hiring to design an orientation workshop and provide tips for better job opportunities.

Asociación Social Maíz

We need to know how government institutions work on cases of gender violence in the Municipality of Cantel, to establish a comprehensive process of care, provision of services and referral system.

Las Niñas Lideran

We need to know why lesbian women are not visible to expand and adapt the services offered by the organization to their needs and set up spaces for dialogue, coexistence, and healing.

Vidas Paralelas

We need to know the importance men give to gender, self-care, sexuality, and socio-political participation addressed, to implement responsive safe spaces to ensure equal participation between genders in our work..

Fundación Oxlajuj N'oj

We need to know the problems and needs of the indigenous merchant women of the Palajunoj Valley, to improve their economic dynamics at the local market and other commercialization spaces

ASOGTURC

We need to know the municipality's knowledge and work about disability, and the needs of people with disabilities, to adapt the municipal work and promote the inclusion of people with different disabilities.

Enseñame A Volar

We need to know the needs of the LGBTIQ+ community to create economic empowerment initiatives that can prevent them from engaging in sex work due to lack of opportunities.

Kajib Kawok

We need to know if the lack of decent employment is limiting youth's political participation to increase young people's participation in political processes.

Visión Legislativa

We need to know the feelings and the needs of young people regarding the "romantic love", to design a methodology to develop reflective attitudes, initiative and critical analysis on gender love relations

Entrelazando Xela

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Learn with us!

Youth Excel is committed to bridging the gap between research and practice, and the gap between practice and research in youth development programs. We are developing and testing strategies to make research, data, and learning useful, usable, and accessible to more youth organizations and in demand by donors and other decision-makers.