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.
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 North Kivu Organizations want to learn?

**Peace Building Team**

We need to know the level of skills of former child soldiers in ICT and business plan development in order to offer them training that matches the needs of the market.

**EDA**

We need to identify the sectors of activity that easily hire young people living with disabilities and why this is the case in order to facilitate their professional integration.

**MEPRODES**

We want to know what occupations LGBTQ+ youth are most often engaged in as freelancers or employees with a view to training them.

**CTJ Masisi**

We need to know if young girls and boys, entrepreneurs and students consider digital training as a relevant field to promote their socio-economic development.

**AJALSI**

We want to know the extent to which youth released from prisons have access to education and employment in order to develop a civic education and career guidance plan for them.

**CJVP**

We need to know what measures are being taken to support the socio-economic reintegration of demobilized youth.

**CUJ**

We need to know if homeless youth are interested in urban agriculture to align our training to their interests.

**IGNITUS**

We need to know whether urban authorities consider job training for homeless youth as an effective way to combat drug abuse in order to develop a program to address it.

**BENEFANCE**

We need to know whether young single mothers see the entrepreneurship capacity building program as an effective means of their socio-economic inclusion so that we can tailor our interventions to their needs.

**AKRAM**

We need to know if deaf-mute girls and their families see sewing as an effective way to combat unemployment.

Diverse Youth from North Kivu during an ICON Workshop
Strengthening inclusion of under-represented and marginalized youth in education and workforce development programs in DRC

What do Kinshasa Participants want to learn?

**Congo Pour Tous**
We need to know why empowerment programs for youth with disabilities are not sustainable to integrate more sustainable leadership, innovation and social entrepreneurship training in our programs.

**Congolese Innovation Academy**
We need to know why empowerment programs for youth with disabilities are not sustainable to integrate more sustainable leadership, innovation and social entrepreneurship training in our programs.

**Jeunes Chefs d’État**
We need to know the level of education and knowledge about ICTs of young single mothers living in Kokolo Military Camp in order to design a program on economic empowerment through ICT education.

**Jeunialissime**
We need to know weather LGBT youth are able to protect themselves from risks and retaliation related to their identities to improve our protection program to strengthen their leadership.

**Kin Car Wash**
We need to know the barriers that prevent youth with disabilities from equitably accessing education and vocation training to propose responsive solutions to their problems.

**Parlement des Jeunes de Kinshasa**
We need to understand the employment opportunities that could exist for unemployed youth living in rural areas to better orient our support program, introducing them to leadership and the digital culture.

**Synergie des Jeunes pour l’Unité et le Développement**
We need to know the reasons why youth drop out of school to improve their participation in training programs and to strengthen their leadership and digital literacy skills.

**Ujuzi**
We want to know the learning and training needs of homeless youth living in the rural areas of Mont Ngafula to advocate with decision-makers for a community-based program for the learning and vocational training.

**Action et Solidarité de Femmes pour la Gouvernance**
We need to know the needs of young single mothers in the rural commune of Kinseso for vocational training to work on capacity training modules for our training centers.

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.

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