



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Youth Excel
Our Knowledge, Leading Change



The Global Youth Advisory Council (GYAC) is Youth Excel's 10-member youth governance body that will incorporate input from diverse youth leaders into project governance and decision-making. The GYAC will provide input into the strategic and tactical project decisions, and to Youth Excel's collaboration, learning, and adaptation approach.

The GYAC scope of work includes **Advisory** in which Youth Excel seeks members input into its youth engagement approaches and policies; **Representation** by co-leading and representing Youth Excel externally; and **Governance** to provide input for regional grant competitions, grantee selection and project buy-ins.

About Youth Excel:

Youth Excel is a 5-year global program funded by USAID. It will strengthen youth-led local development by building capacities of youth-led and youth-serving groups to conduct quality implementation research, and strengthening local systems through intergenerational dialogue and knowledge mobilization for collaborative learning, advocacy, and partnerships with diverse stakeholders.



youth
venture®



SEARCH
FOR COMMON
GROUND



GYAC SCOPE OF WORK

Co-lead and represent
Youth Excel externally

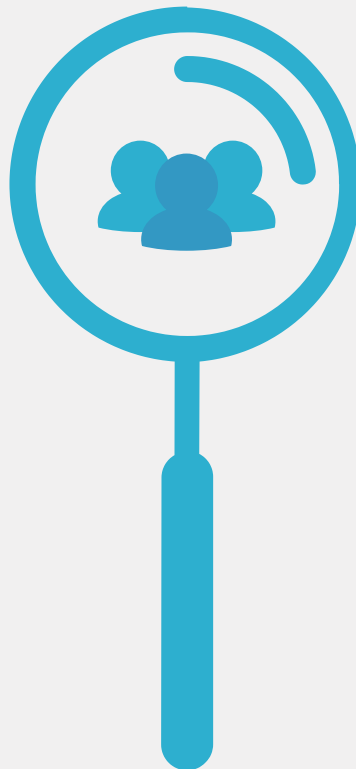
Representation

Advisory

Provide input to
Youth Excel's
foundational
approaches and
brand

Governance

Decision input for
the regional grant
competitions,
grantee selection
and project buy-ins



GYAC MEMBERS

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I am excited to see how different people worldwide reach a common voice for youth development.

Joyce, from Brazil, is a technoxamanist, TEDx lecturer, STEM advocate and social entrepreneur working on the water-energy-food nexus and transboundary cooperation. She advocates for the areas of Sustainability and Adaptation-Mitigation of Climate Change through education, empowerment and research. She is also a young climate ambassador and board member of the think-tank Center for United Nations Constitutional Research (CUNCR). She is also the co-founder of several grassroots movements in Latin America such as the Latin American Observatory of Geopolitics of Energy and the Binational Youth Collective of the Parana Basin 3.



JOYCE MENDEZ

(she, her, hers)

Co-Founder,
Social Entrepreneur

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I'm always into networking and changing our communities for good and that is why I joined the Youth Excel program.

Laith Abu-Taleb from Jordan is the founder of Waragami, a specialized company in paper art, and the founder of Arabic HeForShe, a solidarity movement for gender equality. He is a paper art coach and certified trainer on peer education and sustainable development. Laith works with social initiatives and startups to help shape their social impact and build their online presence. Laith developed a positive youth approach in his work by launching social and youth clubs in different fields, such as: Art, Debate, Theater, Public Speaking, and Languages.

LAITH ABU-TALEB

(he, him, his)

Founder,
Waragami and
HeForShe



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I'm very excited about Youth Excel because I think it is a very radical project that shall bring youth voices at the center of decision-making.

Amina Soulimani from Morocco is an anthropologist and an incoming PhD candidate at the University of Cape Town. She is a member of the Afrika Youth Movement (AYM) who advocates for gender equality and inclusion. Amina has been involved in various youth capacity building programs, serving as a leadership mentor. Her areas of work focus on community-based participatory approach, qualitative research and ethnography. She is also an editor of the Metric, a youth-led platform that highlights marginalized and silenced narratives.



AMINA SOULIMANI

(she, her, hers)

Anthropologist,
Afrika Youth
Movement

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I am very excited to be a part of Youth Excel's GYAC as I see a lot of potential in the program to change the lives of the youth across the globe.

Maitreya Shah is a lawyer and a disability rights activist from India. He is a director at Enable me Access Association, a non-profit entity working in the areas of accessibility and inclusion. He has established India's first association of disabled law students and helped the departments of education change their inclusive education policies. He has always relied on strong research, innovative data collection techniques, and direct policy interventions. He is currently assisting a sitting Indian Parliamentarian in law-making and policy strategies.

MAITREYA SHAH

(he, him, his)

Lawyer, Director,
Activist,
Enable me Access
Association



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What I would like to see from the Youth Excel program is a world where young people are seen as equal partners for the promotion of sustainable peace and development .

Stephanie is the director of administration at Building Blocks for Peace Foundation and a member of the United Network for Young Peacebuilders. She has over 5 years of experience in academic and youth NGO settings, with a major part of her work involving the use of data-informed research to inform policy output.



**STEPHANIE
EFETOBOR
EFFEVOTTU**

(she, her, hers)

Director of
Administration,
Building
Blocks for Peace
Foundation

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I think the biggest achievement for me through Youth Excel would be ensuring that there is a shift in power.

Dumiso Gatsha is Pan African and non-binary queer feminist. Dumiso works on eliminating the barriers between grassroots experiences and global policy-making through providing LGBTIQ+ youth health referral services and participatory action research for advocacy and progress reporting on youth related human rights, SRHR & SDGs governance in national government policy, African Union and United Nations mechanisms.

DUMISO GATSHA
(they, them, their)

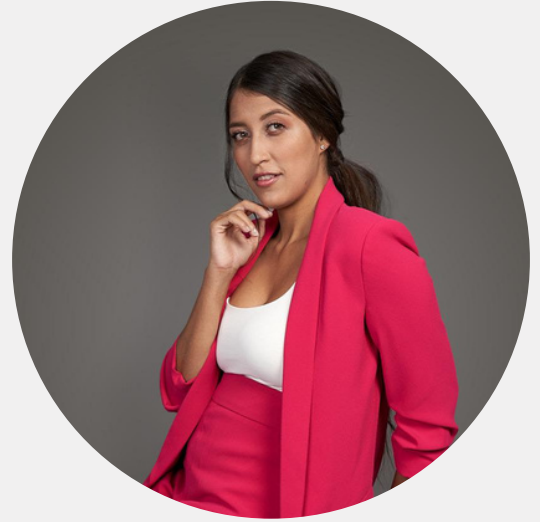
Founder,
Success Capital
Organization



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I'm very excited to be part of Youth Excel because I know we are going to be part of the change that will help transform our world.

Daniela is an entrepreneur, speaker, author and education activist from Colombia. She is the CEO and co-founder of The Biz Nation, an ed-tech company that empowers youth with technology skills, entrepreneurship and financial education. During the past 6 years, she worked in the research and development of "Metodología ECAE", a methodology to teach entrepreneurship to kids and young adults. She also works with vulnerable youth impacted by the Colombian armed conflict in the development of entrepreneurial skills as well as financial education.



**DANIELA
CARVAJALINO**

(she, her, hers)

CEO and
Co-Founder,
The Biz Nation

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I hope to see through Youth Excel more evidence-based research and project management by youth organizations.

Imrana from Nigeria is the founder of the Youth Coalition Against Terrorism which is a volunteer-based youth organization that aims to unite young people against violent extremism in Northern Nigeria. He has conducted multiple researches and co-authored a report related to youth development and was among the experts that developed a 'Handbook of Good Practices to Assist, Protect and Support Victims of Terrorism'.

**IMRANA
ALHAJI BUBA**

(he, him, his)

Founder,
The Youth Coalition
Against Terrorism



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In order to be able to work with the non-disabled, a person with a disability has to recognize his/her disabilities and barriers.

Esma from Georgia is a youth activist and currently serves as a member of the European Democracy Youth Network. She is the co-founder of the Network of former Youth Delegates to the UN and a member of disability inclusion consultative mechanisms with the Tbilisi Mayor's office, the Ministries of Internal Affairs and Health. Esma chairs disabled women's organization, the Platform for New Opportunities, and is a board member at the National Network of Women with disabilities. Esma is a Youth Representative to the United Nations in Georgia and a member at the consultative Council on the monitoring of UNCRPD Implementation, Protection and Promotion with the Ombudsman's Office.



**ESMA
GUMBERIDZE**

(she, her, hers)

*Co-Founder of the
Network of former
Youth Delegates to
the UN*



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For decision-making to be accessible and inclusive, the full and effective participation of everyone is required, especially of young persons with disabilities.

Mushegh from Armenia is a disability rights advocate and policy professional. Having worked with local and international non-governmental organizations, he has holistic perspectives and experience in human rights policy-making and implementation by providing timely and policy-relevant analysis and evidence-based recommendations. He is the president of Disability Rights Agenda OPD, a non-profit dedicated to defending and promoting the human rights of persons with disabilities in Armenia. He is also the coordinator of the Coalition for Inclusive Legal Reforms, a union of disability rights organizations.

**MUSHEGH
HOVSEPYAN**
(he, him, his)

*President,
Disability Rights
Agenda*