

Tackling Systemic Challenges Together: Enhancing youth work readiness in Kisumu, Kenya

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.



Kisumu ICON: enhancing youth work readiness by engaging higher education institutions, the public sector, and the private sector. Co-led by IREX and Lakehub Foundation and engaging diverse youth, youth-led/youth-serving organizations and groups.



LakeHub
TECHIES & CREATIVES

Youth-Led space for
Entrepreneurs, Technologists,
Investors and Makers in
Kisumu, Kenya.

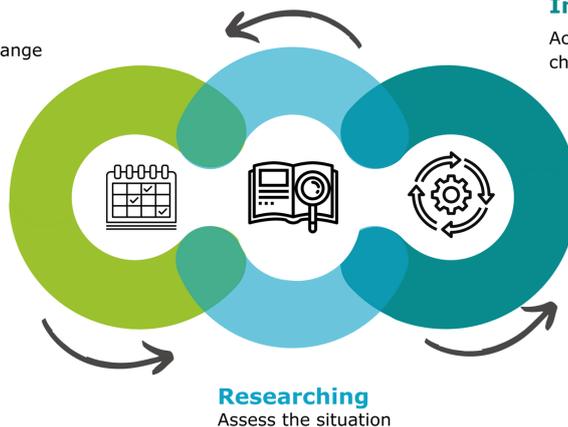
What is Research-to-Change?

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 if our project beneficiaries are practicing the skills they learnt so that we can adapt our training strategies.

Arise and Shine

We need to know if the skills we are providing are necessary for the job market so that we can strengthen the effectiveness of our program.

Dala Spaces

We need to know the market skills gap so that we can design a more relevant digital skills program for the youth from the slums within Nyalenda.

Nyalenda Bread Power

We need to know if social entrepreneurship programs are a priority for youth with disability so that we determine if this is a suitable program to start.

Njema Disabled Self Help Group

We need to know how youth in Nyando subcounty can use digital skills to amplify their businesses so that we can understand how they can maximize profit.

Sustainable Rural Initiatives

We need to know how many youths are willing to start savings so that we can build their capacity on savings and link them to loaning/ financing opportunities.

Young Women's Christians Association (YWCA)

We need to have accurate data on unemployed youth, women and PWDs in Kisumu County in order to develop a job placement strategy to link them with available job opportunities.

Youth Alive Kenya

We want to know the barriers to growth for Youth-Led sustainable enterprises so that we can come up with strategies tailored to addressing the barriers appropriately.

Wise Kenya

We need to know the number of graduates with technical skills getting employment opportunities, build mechanisms to connect them with job opportunities.

Steve Wonder

We need to know the structural barriers to disability inclusion in workplaces to engage relevant stakeholders to enhance inclusion in the workplace.

Tinada

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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