Strengthening Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management (MHH) for Girl's Education

March 22nd

Agenda

- Introduction to Youth Excel
- Theme Overview
  - Activities to Strengthen Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management (MHH)
  - Educational Outcomes of Interest
- Grant Competition Process
- Key Dates
- Q & A Session

Introduction to Youth Excel

Youth Excel Goals and Outcomes

Goals

Local youth-led and youth-serving organizations will improve and sustain positive outcomes for youth

Local youth-led and youth-serving organizations will advance local, national, and global development agendas

Outcome 1: Implementation research for stronger PYD programs.

Outcome 2: Intergenerational dialogue, collaboration and engagement.

Outcome 3: Knowledge products, knowledge synthesis, and youth-led advocacy.

Youth Excel offers….

Positive Youth Development (PYD)-focused **Implementation Research**

Thematic and Regional **Grant Opportunities**

Locally-led, youth-led, problem-solving **Collaborative Networks**

Youth Digital Leadership opportunities

And so much more!

Data Summits with youth and development leaders

Regional Grant Competition

- *Some key components/approaches of the grant competition*
  - **Positive Youth Development:** to contribute to healthy, productive, and engaged youth, positive youth development programs must focus on available assets, youth agency, youth contribution, and the surrounding enabling environment

  - **GESI**: an approach that help us to understand the importance of equal rights and opportunities for all individuals regardless of their social identity. This concept addresses unequal power relations between different social groups that cause exclusion.

Regional Grant Competition

- ***Some key components/approaches of the grant competition***
  - **Protection:** understand and prepare for protection concerns related to Youth Excel, which can be digital, physical and psychosocial so as to take local protection measures to prevent, mitigate and respond to risks and threats that Youth Excel can unintentionally exacerbate risks associated with programs, operations, and people).

  - Youth Excel aims to understand the specific risks, but also the protection capacities, the available resources and the right to protection of participants

  - **Knowledge Mobilization**: strategic dissemination of knowledge products with a focus in driving change through the dissemination of information and data that are the result of different research and learning activities and are made openly available to the public for further use, re-use or re-distribution

Regional Grant Competition

- ***Some key components/approaches of the grant competition***
  - **Implementation Research/Research-to-change:** Information is a powerful resource that can be used to help organizations grow and make their programs work better. "Research-to-Change" (implementation research) is a tool that allows for organizations to gather data, take what they learn, and turn it into what they do in real-time
  - Your application will need to show how you plan to use Research-to-Change to strengthen one of your existing activity.
  - Must be for an existing project

Theme Overview

"Using 'Research-to-Change' (Implementation Research) to Strengthen Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management for Girl's Education"

Aim: use Research-to-change (Implementation research) to improve menstrual health and hygiene management activities while advancing girl's education

What qualifies	What doesn't qualify
Adding implementation research to existing activities so that implementation can be strengthened.	Using implementation research to inform the start-up of new activities.
Working within schools that have existing WASH infrastructure.	Investments in WASH infrastructure.

Discussing our Theme

Strengthening Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management (MHH) for Girl's Education

Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) is the ability of women, girls, and transgender and gender non-binary individuals who menstruate ("menstruators" or "individuals who menstruate") to manage their menstrual cycles in a safe, dignified, healthy, and supported manner throughout their lives.

What role might menstruation play in shaping the educational experiences of girls?

How might menstrual health and hygiene management improve the educational experiences of girls?

Activities to Strengthen Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management

Education/Awareness Raising

Any activity that has the purpose of shifting knowledge, attitudes, practices, or norms around MHH and girl's education.

Can you share any examples of this type of activity from your own work?

Services Provision for Students and Teachers

Any activity that has the purpose of strengthening capacities and skillsets of students and teachers for MHH and girl's education.

Can you share any examples of this type of activity from your own work?

Product Provision

Any activity that involves the distribution of a physical item with the specific purpose of strengthening MHH.

Can you share any examples of this type of activity from your own work?

Community-based interventions to complement school-based interventions

Any activity that involves community engagement outside of the school setting to complement school-based activities with the specific purpose of strengthening MHH and advancing girl's education.

Can you share any examples of this type of activity from your own work?

Other Activities Strengthening MHH

What other types of activities do you think can strengthen MHH?

Please share!

Educational Outcomes of Interest

School attendance, retention, and/or intended persistence

Female students:
- *reliably attend school classes,*
- *to progress through grade levels,*
- *and to plan to 'persist', or continue, through secondary education.*

How might strengthened MHH lead to improvements in this educational outcome?

Student Achievement

Female students demonstrate that:
- *they have learned the material required for their grade level*
- *successfully pass their grade level*
- *Demonstrate and use level-appropriate skills and competencies*

How might strengthened MHH lead to improvements in this educational outcome?

Parental support for education

Parents demonstrate their active support for keeping female children in school throughout adolescence.

How might strengthened MHH lead to improvements in this educational outcome?

Teacher capacity to support girls' education

Teachers demonstrate their capacities and active support for female student attendance and achievement in school throughout adolescence.

How might strengthened MHH lead to improvements in this educational outcome?

Socio-emotional learning

Female students demonstrate their ability to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

How might strengthened MHH lead to improvements in this educational outcome?

Other Educational Outcomes

What other educational outcomes do you think might be improved through strengthened MHH? Please share and explain!

Discussion Questions

What is going well in your current work and surrounding context?

What are the gaps and possible areas for adaptation in your current work?

What are the learning opportunities related to improving MHH & girls education?

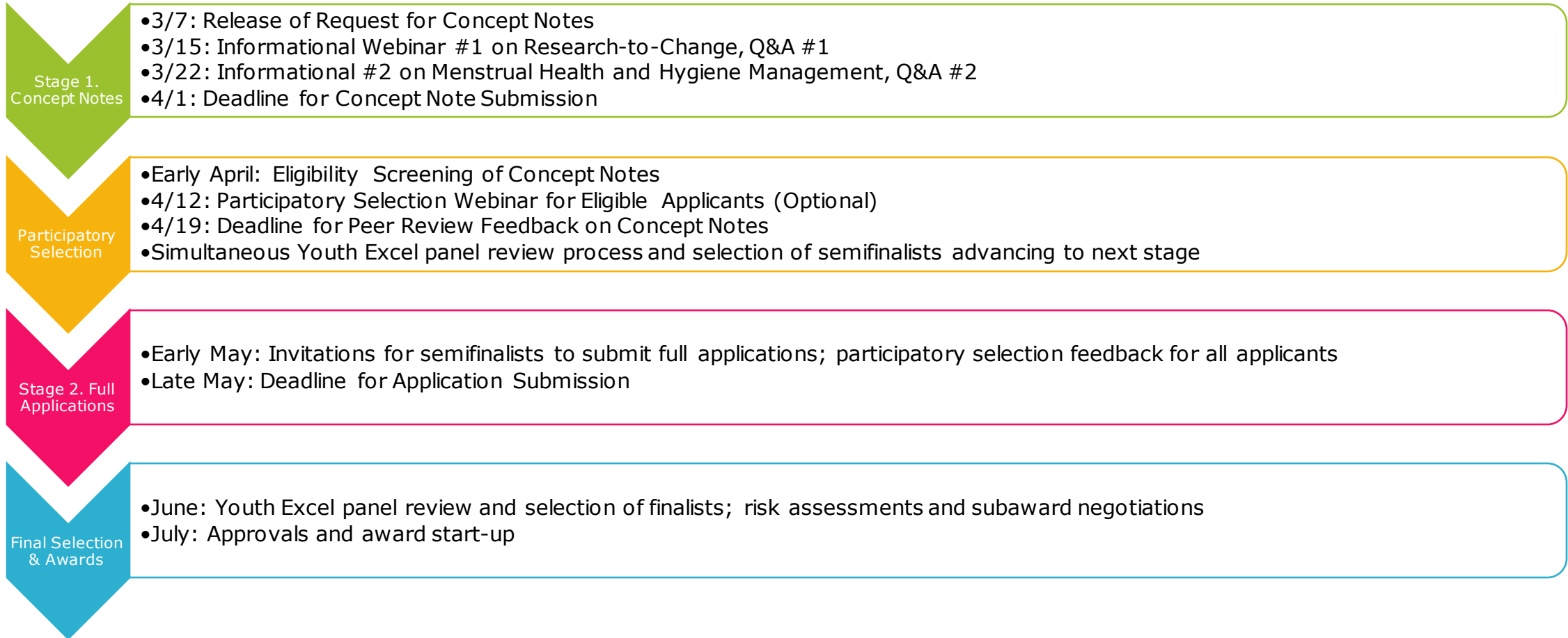# Sharing Back

What were some key takeaways from your conversation?

Grant Competition Process

Request for Concept Notes: https://www.irex.org/program/seeking-concept-notes-strengthen-menstrual-health-and-hygiene-management-girls-education

Timeline

Stage 1. Concept Notes
- 3/7: Release of Request for Concept Notes
- 3/15: Informational Webinar #1 on Research-to-Change, Q&A #1
- 3/22: Informational #2 on Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management, Q&A #2
- 4/1: Deadline for Concept Note Submission

Participatory Selection
- Early April: Eligibility Screening of Concept Notes
- 4/12: Participatory Selection Webinar for Eligible Applicants (Optional)
- 4/19: Deadline for Peer Review Feedback on Concept Notes
- Simultaneous Youth Excel panel review process and selection of semifinalists advancing to next stage

Stage 2. Full Applications
- Early May: Invitations for semifinalists to submit full applications; participatory selection feedback for all applicants
- Late May: Deadline for Application Submission

Final Selection & Awards
- June: Youth Excel panel review and selection of finalists; risk assessments and subaward negotiations
- July: Approvals and award start-up

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Youth Excel
Our Knowledge, Leading Change

What kind of grants are available?

- **Purpose:** using "research-to-change" (implementation research) to strengthen menstrual health hygiene and management for girl's education in East and Southern Africa
- **Locations:** Malawi and Zambia.
- **Number:** 4-5.
- **Type:** Fixed amount subaward.
- **Amount:** USD $40,000 - $50,000. Cost share is not required.
- **Start:** July 2022.
- **Length:** 8 months.

Who can apply?

Local youth-led and youth-serving organizations serving youth aged 10-24 who meet the following minimum criteria and share Youth Excel objectives are eligible to apply.

Organizations led by or serving marginalized groups, which may include age, gender, disability, ethnicity, and other identities, are encouraged to apply.

The grant competition is not restricted to certain technical sectors or to research organizations.

Eligibility Criteria

- ✓ Registered Organization
- ✓ Local* - locally registered & based, local majority ownership & governing body in Malawi or Zambia
- ✓ Non-governmental - NGOs, CBO, PVOs, other types of civil society eligible - or private companies
- ✓ Youth-led and/or youth-serving*
- ✓ DUNS number, certifications*

- o Individual or Group, Not Registered
- o International
- o Government Institutions or Political Parties
- o Appears on certain watchlists or exclusions from receiving USG funding
- o Has received Youth Excel funding or has conflict of interest

How can eligible organizations apply?

Complete responses in English to the questions in Annex I. Concept Note Template. Submit concept notes online by April 1st, 2022 at 11:59 pm Central Africa Time.

At: https://irexorg.formstack.com/forms/fy22_youth_excel_grant_competition_02

How will applicants be selected?

- Eligibility screening for basic parameters, minimum eligibility criteria, completeness and timeliness of submission

- Participatory selection: optional peer review feedback
  - "Strongly recommended" or "recommended" concept notes will receive additional consideration by Youth Excel review panel
  - No impact on "not recommended" concepts or applicants who choose not to participate

- Youth Excel shortlisting and review panel

Technical Question Rubric

- Does applicant clearly identify and demonstrate understanding of the problem that the concept will address? [Question 4]

- To what extent does the proposed solution address the problem in a realistic, meaningful, and innovative way? [Question 5]

- Does applicant articulate its motivation and priority for the concept? [Question 6]

- Does applicant demonstrate clear understanding of the context, informed by preliminary gender equality and social inclusion analysis? Does applicant describe how it will adapt the concept to be effective in the context? Will the applicant leverage any ongoing investments in girls' education in the context? [Question 7]

- Is the concept inclusive of youth and marginalized group(s)? Is the concept and approach responsive to youth priorities? Does applicant display understanding of risks and demonstrate safeguarding measures to ensure the concept does no more harm? [Question 8]

- Are applicants aware of potential risks for participants and are they considering of mitigation strategies? [Question 9]

Selection Criteria

- **Responsiveness:** concept's approach and value for youth priorities related to the grant competition theme and region. [Part B, Questions 1-9; informed by participatory selection review]

- **Feasibility:** applicant's understanding of requirements and proven capacity to successfully implement the concept. [Part B, Question 10 and Part C]

- **Impact:** concept's potential to advance positive youth development outcomes and learning. [Overall]

- **Protection:** applicant's awareness of potential risks for participating youth and consideration of mitigation strategies [Question 9]

- **Inclusion:** applicant's commitment to diversity and inclusion (especially regarding work with and/or support to vulnerable or marginalized groups such as girls and women, youth with disabilities, youth from ethnic or religious minorities, and other identities)[Overall]

Q & A Session

Next steps

- First webinar materials and first set of Q&A were shared out on email and posted online by **March 18th**

- Second webinar materials and second set of Q&A will be shared out on email and posted online by **March 25th**

- Continue to submit your questions anytime to excelyouth@irex.org by **March 23rd**

- Complete and submit your concept note online by **April 1st at 11:59 pm CAT**