

CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES

Youth Excel is seeking concept notes from local youth-led and youth-serving organizations to strengthen mental health and psychosocial support for marginalized and vulnerable youth in East Africa and Southern Africa.

Deadline to apply is August 11, 2021

[#YEMentalHealth](#)



Agenda

- Background: Youth Excel
- Theme overview
- Concept Note overview
- Key Dates
- Q & A session

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
 - Your application will need to show how you plan to use IR in your proposed project (*both implementation and research, not one or the other*)
 - Can be for either a new or existing project

Theme Overview

- Participatory selection of the theme with youth
- Cross-sectoral
- Responsive to youth priorities and global context
- Tackles impacts of COVID-19
- Aligned with Youth Excel objectives
- Support positive youth development (PYD) programs

Mental Health and Pyscho-social Support

- **Mental health:** State of well-being in which an individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his or her community. (WHO)
- **Psychosocial:** dynamic relationship between the psychological dimension of a person and the social dimension of a person.
- The *psychological* dimension includes the internal, emotional and thought processes, feelings and reactions, and the *social* dimension includes relationships, family and community network, social values and cultural practices.
- **Psychosocial support:** actions that address both psychological and social needs of individuals, families and communities.

Theme Overview

"Strengthening mental health and psychosocial support for marginalized and/or vulnerable youth"

Aim: use Research-to-change (Implementation research) to improve mental health and psychosocial support for vulnerable and/or marginalized youth

What qualifies	What doesn't qualify
Community activities for ventilating through sports and dance	Clinical services Medical treatment
Art therapy that enhances mental health	
Safe spaces for emotional ventilation like story-telling, poetry	Clinical treatment
Inter community support groups and peer group support	Psychotherapy
Mental health clubs through existing channels like religious spaces, community halls etc	



Sub-themes

- Areas where you propose to work on as per your concept
 - Gender-Based Violence
 - Impacts of COVID-19
 - Shift to Digital World
 - Transition (back) to Learning and Earning
 - Youth Innovation
 - Other

About the grant competition

Countries open to: Eswatini, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia

of grants: 3-6*

Type: Fixed Amount Awards

Amount: \$25,000-\$75,000

Start date: October/November 2021

Duration: 6-12 months



Who can apply?

- Local youth-led and youth-serving organizations serving youth aged 15-35
- Organizations led by or serving marginalized groups, which may include age, gender, disability, ethnicity, and other identities, are encouraged to apply

Eligible	Not Eligible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual or Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nongovernmental Organizations or Private Companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Institutions or Political Parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth-led and/or youth-serving 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible to receive USAID funding: • Has or willing to register for DUNS Number • Able to sign ADS 303mav Certifications, Assurances, Representations, and Other Statements of the Recipient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not eligible due to any of the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appears on Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control list • Has active exclusions in the System for Award Management • Appears on United Nations Security Designation list
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has directly received funding from IREX (direct IREX sub-recipient)

How to apply

- Submit your concept note via jotform **by 11th August 2021 at 11:59pm EAT** <https://www.jotform.com/build/211944167938163>
- Access the full information pack on the IREX website <https://www.irex.org/program/seeking-concept-notes-strengthening-youths-mental-health-east-africa-and-southern-africa>

Selection Process

Eligibility screening (based on outlined criteria)

Participatory selection

Youth Excel panel review

Shortlisted applicants submit full application

Eligibility Screening

- Does concept note satisfy the basic parameters?
- Does applicant meet the minimum eligibility criteria?
- Is concept note complete and submitted on time?

Participatory Selection

- Youth Excel is also committed to participatory grant-making in which those people who are most impacted participate in decision-making.
- In order to build the foundation for open exchange during the grant competition phase, eligible applicants will provide feedback on each other's concept notes
- Aligned to Youth Excel's values on learning and knowledge sharing
- Eligible applicants participating in the workshop will be invited to review 3 concept notes by **August 20th**

Participatory Selection

- 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? [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 participating youth and are they considering of mitigation strategies? [Question 9]

Concept note overview

Link: <https://form.jotform.com/211944167938163>



Key Dates

Activity	Date	Other information
Call for applications period	July 15th-August 11th 2021	https://www.irex.org/program/seeking-concept-notes-strengthening-youths-mental-health-east-africa-and-southern-africa
Question submission deadline	August 3rd 2021	To: excelyouth@irex.org Subject: FY21-Youth Excel ESA Grant Competition-02 Questions
Webinar 1 (Call overview)	July 27th 1pm-2pm EAT	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youth-excel-grant-competition-webinar-registration-163400271611
Webinar 2 (Introduction to Research-to-Change)	August 2nd, 3pm-4pm EAT	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youth-excel-grant-competition-webinar-what-is-implementation-research-registration-163406217395
Participatory Selection Workshop	August 18th, 11am-12noon EAT	

Next steps

- Today's webinar materials and first set of Q&A will be shared out on email, and posted online by July 29th
- Attend the IR/ Research-to-change webinar on August 2nd
- Submit your questions to excelyouth@irex.org by August 3rd
- Work on and complete your concept note application by 11:59pm EAT August 11th 2021

Q & A

Website:

excelyouth@irex.org

 [@youthexcelprogram](https://www.facebook.com/youthexcelprogram)

Newsletter registration: <http://eepurl.com/hlNwwH>