USAID Youth Excel: Our Knowledge, Leading Change Program

Coordinating Implementation and Learning Agenda to Support Gender Norms Change for Adolescent Boys and Young Men in Tanzania

Request for Applications (RFA)
Deadline: May 16, 2022, at 11:59 pm EAT

Key Request for Applications (RFA) Information and Dates	
Request Number	FY22-Youth Excel-Tanzania-01 Issued under USAID Youth Excel Cooperative Agreement Number 7200AA20CA00024
Issue Date	**April 19, 2022**
Website	https://www.irex.org/program/seeking-applications-support-gender-norms-change-adolescent-boys-and-young-men-tanzania Access all RFA information and updates posted regularly here.
Questions	Submit questions on an ongoing basis by **May 5, 2022** **To:** excelyouth@irex.org **Subject:** FY22-Youth Excel-Tanzania-01 Questions Check for responses posted by **May 6, 2022**
Info-Session Webinar	Attend optional webinar open to all applicants for application development support and questions. **Date: May 5, 2022, from 2pm to 4pm EAT** **Register at:** https://irexorg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrdOmtrDgpHtFax9bynNEsElLN7loaCY6y
Application Deadline	Submit applications by filling in the online application form by **May 16, 2022, at 11:59 EAT** **At:** https://irexorg.formstack.com/forms/fy22_youth_excel_grant_tanzania_01
Grant Start Date	**July 1, 2022**

What is the purpose of the USAID Youth Excel: Our Knowledge Leading Change program and the Request for Applications (RFA)?

About Youth Excel: The USAID Youth Excel: Our Knowledge Leading Change program implemented by the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) and its consortium supports young leaders and youth-led and youth-serving organizations around the globe to conduct quality "Research-to-Change" (implementation research); use data and learnings to improve their own cross-sectoral, positive youth development programs; synthesize data and learning; and engage in intergenerational dialogue with adult decision-makers so that together youth and adults can shape and advance data-informed development policies, agendas, and programs.

About IREX: IREX is a global development and education organization. We strive for a more just, prosperous, and inclusive world—where individuals reach their full potential, governments serve their people, and communities thrive. IREX works with partners in more than 100 countries in four areas essential to progress: empowering youth, cultivating leaders, strengthening institutions, and extending access to quality education and information. Our work includes reducing corruption, stopping disinformation, and building social trust.

Purpose of the Request for Applications: With support from the USAID Office of Population and Reproductive Health (PRH), Youth Excel is implementing and gathering data on best practices for Young Emanzi Boys Mentoring toolkit (EBM), a positive masculinities program for young men in Tanzania. Youth Excel will facilitate a learning agenda that will explore what works for implementation success and incorporate data gathered during implementation for real-time program adaptation. The purpose of the Young Emanzi Boys Mentoring program (EBM) is to support social and gender norm change and build positive family planning and reproductive health outcomes among Adolescent Boys and Young Men (ABYM) (ages 15-24) and their partners including: reduction of intimate partner violence (IPV), increased open and equitable couple communication, increased support for and voluntary uptake of contraception, and condom use for dual protection, etc. EBM uses mentorship and dialogue to establish more equitable gender norms for young men, which hold potential to serve as a pathway for young men to address their own health needs while supporting young women to attain theirs as envisaged in this toolkit.

Through this Request for Applications (RFA), Youth Excel seeks a local youth-led or youth-serving organization to lead EBM implementation in 12 communities across Mbeya and Mwanza regions of Tanzania and gather data to inform best practices. This role entails stakeholder engagement, coordination of implementation logistics, recruitment and training of mentors, implementation of curriculum, coordination of research logistics, and providing inputs for knowledge product development and dissemination.

Issuance of this request for applications does not constitute an award commitment on the part of Youth Excel, nor does it commit Youth Excel, IREX, or USAID to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. The application is submitted at the risk of the applicant. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.

What are Youth Excel's key technical approaches?

What is "Research-to-Change" ([implementation research](#))?
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 organizations to gather data, take what they learn, and turn it into what they do in real-time.

What is [positive youth development](#)?

Positive youth development engages youth along with their families, communities, and/or governments so that youth are empowered to reach their full potential. Youth Excel works from the assumption that 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.

What is [GESI](#)?

Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) is 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.

What is protection?

The protection approach helps us to understand and prepare for protection concerns related to Youth Excel, which can be digital, physical and psychosocial. This will help 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.

What is knowledge mobilization?

Knowledge mobilization is the 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.

What is capacity development?

Youth Excel's capacity development supports youth-led and youth-serving organizations to strengthen skills and leverage opportunities in the following areas: using implementation research to strengthen positive youth development programs; applying gender, inclusion, and protection so that programs are more inclusive of diverse youth groups; strengthening opportunities for meaningful youth engagement and intergenerational dialogue; synthesizing, disseminating, and using findings from research more effectively; and managing subawards, including planning, budgeting, reporting, and compliance.

What is the role of the local partner in Youth Excel's Emanzi Boys Mentoring Program in Tanzania?

- **Conduct protection assessment for program context:** Includes identification of potential harms and modes of exclusion, development risk mitigation and inclusion strategies, and compilation resources for responding to harm. The protection assessment will also surface considerations for gender and social inclusion (GESI). Youth Excel will provide a template for this assessment. The partner will work with Youth Excel to contextualize the template and approach for the context.
- **Support the development of the research protocol and learning agenda:** Provide inputs for research protocol to be submitted for ethical review and approval.
- **Identify and engage relevant actors:**
    a. **Stakeholders:** Community leaders including government officials at the local and national level.
    b. **EBM Mentors:** Young men aged 20-30 years who are graduates of similar gender-focused programs or are trained program facilitators from the local communities.
    c. **EBM Participants:** ABYM aged 15-24 years.
- **Lead EBM implementation and manage logistics of implementation** in two (2) regions, Mbeya and Mwanza, and a total of 12 communities**.** This includes the following: toolkit contextualization, participant recruitment and retainment, stakeholder engagement, toolkit dissemination, community identification, mentor recruitment and retainment, mentor training, curriculum delivery, managing activity MEL and communications as needed. Program will be implemented in two time-staggered region level cohorts.
- **Lead research and learning logistics coordination:** The partner will manage day-to-day implementation of the research protocol/learning agenda by collaborating closely with the Implementation Research Advisor. This includes leading coordination of data collection, coordinating monthly learning workshops and supporting advisor with facilitation, coordinating and leading monthly mentor refresher trainings, and supporting advisor with data management.
- **Support knowledge product creation:** This includes providing inputs for monthly learning briefs, a learning report, a webinar for the launch of the learning report, the finalized toolkit, blog post/policy brief, and a journal article.
- **Assess and strengthen capacities to improve performance in priority area(s):** The partner will complete self-led baseline capacity and performance surveys and identify at least one performance goal in area(s) related to organizational priorities and the scope of work. Illustrative areas may include research, monitoring and evaluation, gender equality and social inclusion, stakeholder engagement, communications, financial management, or others. Youth Excel will provide coaching, customized technical support, funding, and linkages to other resources to the partner for self-driven capacity strengthening. Youth Excel will measure the partner's resulting performance improvement using established metrics at endline.

1. What kind of grant is available for the role?

- **Number:** 1. *Subject to the availability of funds, Youth Excel/IREX reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.*
- **Type:** fixed amount subaward. Payments based on the negotiated budget will be made upon successful completion of project milestones. *ADS Reference 303mat Mandatory Standard Provisions for Fixed Amount Awards to Nongovernmental Organizations apply.*
- **Amount:** USD 110,000-130,000. Applicants can propose the amount required for project implementation within this range. *Cost share is not required.*
- **Start:** July 1, 2022
- **Length:** 10 months

2. Who is eligible to apply for the role?

Local youth-led and youth-serving organizations who meet the following minimum criteria, share Youth Excel objectives, and have experience implementing youth programs in Tanzania in the Mbeya and Mwanza regions are eligible to apply. Organizations led by or serving marginalized groups, which may include age, gender, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and other identities, are encouraged to apply.

Eligible	Not Eligible

✓ Legally Registered, Local Tanzania Organizations
   o Is legally organized under the laws of Tanzania;
   o Has its principal place of business or operations in Tanzania;
   o Is majority-owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Tanzania;
   o Is managed by a governing body, the majority of whom are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Tanzania;
	✘ Individuals or Groups
	✘ Unregistered organizations
	✘ International Organizations

✓ Non-governmental or private organizations of any type	✘ Government Institutions or Political Parties
✓ Youth-led and/or youth-serving organizations o Youth-led organization whose Chief Executive Officer or	

other leaders are under the age of 35, and whose Board of Directors are predominantly under the age of 35. o Youth-serving organization that has a mission, mandate, or programs with an expressed priority of serving or supporting youth under age 35.	
✓ Eligible to receive USAID funding: o Has or willing to register for Unique Entity ID Number o Able to sign ADS 303mav Certifications, Assurances, Representations, and Other Statements of the Recipient	✖ Not eligible due to any of the following reasons: o Appears on Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control list o Has active exclusions in the System for Award Management o Appears on United Nations Security Designation list o Appears on U.S. Government suspended or debarred list
	✖ Has conflict of interest

3. How can eligible organizations apply?

Complete responses in English. Submit application and required attachments online by **May 16, 2022, at 11:59 pm EAT at:**
https://irexorg.formstack.com/forms/fy22_youth_excel_grant_tanzania_01

4. How will the local partner be selected?

Youth Excel will conduct a basic eligibility screening and disqualify applications that are not eligible for consideration based on the following criteria.
- Does concept note satisfy the basic parameters of the Request for Applications? [Refer to Section 1]
- Does applicant meet the minimum eligibility criteria? [Refer to Section 2]
- Is concept note complete and submitted on time? [Refer to Section 3]

Then the Youth Excel review panel, including IREX/Youth Excel, Global Youth Advisory Council, and USAID representatives, will evaluate eligible applications based on the following selection criteria:

- **Institutional Capacity and Past Performance within Context (40 points):** applicant has requisite depth of experience managing projects of similar scope, magnitude, and complexity, in addition to expertise in gender curriculum; expertise in qualitative,

quantitative, and participatory research methods; effective facilitation approach. *(Assessed based on Section B, Question 1 and 4, and Section C)*

- **Protection and Inclusion within Context (20 points):** The applicant demonstrates experience and understanding of the context in the Mbeya and Mwanza regions. Is the proposal inclusive of youth and marginalized group(s)? Is the proposal and approach responsive to youth priorities? Does applicant display an understanding of risks and demonstrate safeguarding measures to ensure the project does no more harm? *(Assessed based on Section B, Questions 2 and 3)*

- **Partnership and Collaboration within Context (20 Points):** established presence in Tanzania; existing relationships and approach to coordination with local partners, government, research boards, and other stakeholders; effective and responsive approach for youth and community engagement in Mwanza and Mbeya regions. *(Assessed based on Section B, Question 5)*

- **Feasibility (20 points):** applicants' understanding of the scope of work and proposed strategies and timelines; realism of workplan and budget. *(Assessed based on Section D, Attachments 1-3)*

For finalist application(s), Youth Excel will conduct a full risk assessment and ask technical and budget clarifications.

Annex 1. Application Template

Questions marked with an asterick (*) are mandatory; others are optional.

A. Key Information

Organization Legal Name*	
Organization Address*	
Organization Description:* include type of organization, year of establishment, location, mission and technical focuses. (500 characters)	
What is/are the main <u>youth</u> demographic(s) that your organization focuses on?* *(Choose all that apply.)*	❑ Women ❑ Men ❑ Adolescents ❑ Young adults ❑ Persons with disabilities ❑ Indigenous populations ❑ Conflict-affected populations ❑ People living with HIV/AIDS ❑ LGBTQI+ ❑ Other. Write in:
What are the <u>primary sectors</u> that your organization currently focuses on?* *(Choose all that apply.)*	❑ Youth economic opportunity/youth livelihoods/employment ❑ Gender, inclusion, equity & girls/women's equality ❑ Youth mental health & psychosocial support ❑ Youth digital leadership, technology & innovation ❑ Youth civic or political engagement & advocacy ❑ Youth peacebuilding ❑ Education ❑ Reproductive Health ❑ Agriculture ❑ Environment and Climate Change ❑ Other. Write in:
What is the total number of youth beneficiaries or participants that your organization has supported in the past year, across all of your work?*	

Organization Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number[1] (if available)	
Signatory Name*	
Signatory Title*	
Signatory Phone*	
Signatory Email*	
Proposed Funding Amount in TZS*	
Proposed Funding Amount in USD*	

B. Technical Questions:

1) **Gender and Mentorship Experience and Approach:** Describe your experience facilitating gender curriculum and mentorship programs. Explain the strategies you will use for recruiting and retaining mentors and participants for the Emanzi Boys Mentoring program. **(2,500 characters)**
2) **Context:** Describe your experience implementing programs in urban, peri-urban, and rural communities within the Mbeya and Mwanza regions. What are key power dynamics, norms, social customs, and policies in the context, and how will your activities be sensitive to them? What factors may enable or disable the implementation and impact of your activities in the context? * **(2,500 characters)**
3) **Inclusion and Protection:** Describe your approach to participant safeguarding and protection. * **(2,500 characters)**
4) **Data and Research:** Describe your experience collecting data using qualitative, quantitative, and participatory methodologies. Explain your procedures for safe and secure data recording and storage. * **(2,500 characters)**
5) **Partnership and collaboration approach:** How will your organization build partnerships with other stakeholders addressing gender issues in the community? How will you adapt your program management approach to respond to beneficiary needs and priorities? What experience do you have with coordinating engagement and approval from local government and research boards? * **(2,500 characters)**

C. Past Performance and Reference: list 3-5 ongoing or complete donor-funded projects of similar size and scope within the past 5 years that demonstrate your organization's capacity to successfully manage the EBM implementation research activity.

Project Name* Contract Number* Funder*	

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[1] For more information on the Unique Entity ID (UEI) number, please refer to: https://sam.gov/content/duns-uei

Prime Recipient* *(Please list the prime recipient organization that received funding directly from the donor. The prime recipient could be your organization or another organization if your organization was a sub-recipient.)* Funding Amount* Currency* Funding Amount in USD* Project Start Date* Project End Date* Project Country* Project Regions* Reference Name* *(Please provide the name of a reference from the donor or prime recipient who can speak to your organization's performance on this project.)* Reference Title* Reference Email Address* Reference Phone Number* Description* *Please provide an overview of activity, objectives, and key results and accomplishments, with focus on relevance to the EBM implementation research activity. (1,000 characters)*	

D. Attachments

1. **Workplan:*** Please use the workplan template provided (Attachment 1, Excel) to prepare a 10-month workplan with the following information: The activity will last for 10 months and will include the following: 1.) 12 community toolkit contextualization workshops, 2.) recruitment of 24 mentors and 180 participants across 12 communities 3.) 12 toolkit testing workshops, 4.) implementation of 16-week curriculum across 12 communities, 5.) implementation of research plan alongside curriculum delivery, 6.) 8 learning and adaptation workshops, 7.) 8 mentor refresher trainings. Please note that the program will be implemented in two region-level cohorts, staggered across two separate periods. Please refer to the detailed guidance in the workplan template provided

2. **Budget:*** Please use the budget template provided (Attachment 2, Excel) to come up with an indicative budget for the proposed activities. *ADS 303mat Mandatory Standard Provisions for Fixed Amount Awards to Nongovernmental Organizations apply.* Please refer to the detailed guidance in the budget and budget narrative templates provided

3. **Budget Narrative**:* Please use the budget narrative provided (Attachment 3, Word) to justify the allowability, allocability, and reasonableness of each line item of the budget.

4. **Due Diligence Form**:* Please use the due diligence form provided (Attachment 4, PDF) to describe your organization's structure, systems, and policies demonstrating responsibility to manage funding.

5. **Registration Certificate:*** Please attach a copy of organization's Tanzania registration certificate.

E. Optional Materials

Share links or attachments for up to three knowledge products (i.e. policy brief, blog, article, etc.) in any format that demonstrate your organization's commitment, impact, and learning related to positive youth development.

F. Certifications

I certify that the applicant organization is a local entity organization that:*

Is legally organized under the laws of Tanzania. Yes/No

Has its principal place of business or operations in Tanzania. Yes/No

Is majority-owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Tanzania. Yes/No

Is managed by a governing body, the majority of whom are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Tanzania. Yes/No

And is a:*

Youth-led organization whose Chief Executive Officer or other leaders are under the age of 35, and whose Board of Directors are predominantly under the age of 35. Yes/No

Youth-serving organization that has a mission, mandate, or programs with an expressed priority of serving or supporting youth under age 35. Yes/No

And is (as applicable):

A female-led organization whose Chief Executive Officer or other leaders are female, and whose Board of Directors are predominantly female. Yes/No

An organization with a specific mission to work with marginalized groups (e.g., youth with disabilities). Yes/No

An organization with a specific mission to work with vulnerable youth (e.g. youth in conflict areas, youth living with HIV/AIDS or orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS). Yes/No

As an authorized signatory of the applicant organization, I certify that the information provided is complete and accurate, to the best of my knowledge. By signing this application, I authorize IREX

to check my references and verify information. Any willful false statements in this application will be grounds for disqualification of application or termination of grant if issued.

[Signature]
[Name]
[Title]
[Organization]
[Date]