

Youth Essential Skills



Challenge

The world is undergoing a digital transformation — the ‘fourth industrial revolution’ — the rate of societal change and the size of the global youth population are at historic high levels. In this time of change ~1.2 billion young people aged 15-24 have a tremendous opportunity to shape a positive future as individuals, through highly interconnected networks, as leaders, workers, and entrepreneurs. Unfortunately, many of them still lack the essential skills to secure work.



Solution

IREX’s **Youth Essential Skills (YES) Toolkit** is a comprehensive research and evidence-based training resource that helps reimagine the way young people are prepared to thrive so they can meet the demands of a future defined by change.

YES equips young people with a set of “essential” soft skills proven to equip youth for workforce and entrepreneurial success, civic participation, resilience and leadership.

The Toolkit contains:

-  A power learning tool and framework
-  A comprehensive and engaging training curriculum can be tailored for diverse need and contexts
-  Assessment resources to track skills development
-  Digital learning tools and resources

The Youth Essential Skills



The YES Advantage

-  Develops skills for today and a future defined by change
-  Adaptable for purpose, context and scale
-  Translates hands-on learning and play into performance results
-  Prioritizes youth needs and youth leadership for growth
-  Includes diverse learners
-  Activates life-long personalized learning

In youth-serving programs, YES helps implementers provide high quality youth development programming that strengthens the skills of youth

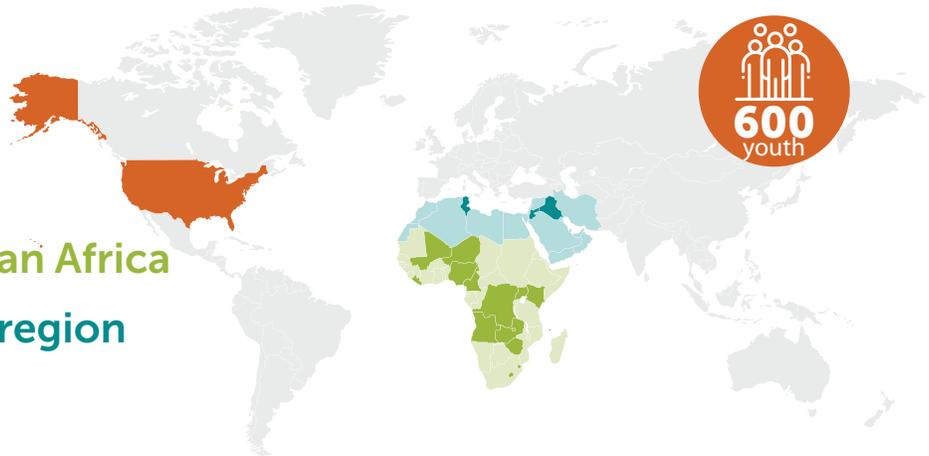
“ This project has equipped me with the right set of skills to be fully integrated in my community. I am now truly part of civil society in my community. ”

- Youth leader

Context	Use Examples
 YES Edu	YES activities were tailored for higher education classrooms in Iraq, Jordan and the U.S. where faculty used them to strengthen the soft skills of undergraduates. Students earned digital YES badges that signaled their soft skill development—skills that are in high demand by employers.
 YES Lead	The YES Toolkit was used to train youth leaders in 13 African countries on key soft skills and on positive youth development methods. These went on to deliver high quality programming in their communities that strengthened youth resilience, leadership and workforce skills.
 YES Work	IREX worked with a company in Nigeria to tailor the YES Toolkit to equip workers with soft skills that improved staff performance of staff and satisfaction. The tailored approach—the Employee Essential Skills Suite—also cultivated a positive and collaborative learning culture in the company.

Global Reach

The YES Toolkit has strengthened youth skills across 18 countries worldwide.



18 countries
 in Sub-Saharan Africa
 in the MENA region
 U.S.A

Results

YES helps build skills of youth through engaging, fun and hands-on skills-building experiences that strengthen target essential skills.



Results from a Kenya youth training completed in partnership with Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

In the workforce, YES helps raise the performance of staff and companies by building key skills desired by employers.

“ The skills [employees were trained on] are showing up during projects. [For example, one employee] is now anticipating challenges, adapting quickly to resolve these challenges. ”

- Manager. Employees trained by IREX used these problem-solving skills stronger skills to bring stronger and faster solutions for customers.