

Youth Excel:

Our Knowledge,
Leading Change

Partnership Opportunities



Stronger youth-led development through research and learning

The challenge: In today's digitally linked global landscape, many of the world's 1.8 billion young people are creating positive social impact by addressing the world's complex challenges through solutions, direct action, social movements, and networks, initiating dialogue and action to promote social justice. However, many youth still lack pathways to education, economic and civic contribution, access to health and mental health services, and opportunities to lead change. COVID-19 has exacerbated many of these challenges. Youth who are leading change are often not taken seriously by decision-makers. Youth-led and youth-serving organizations lack resources, capacity, collaborators, and partners to achieve the magnitude of positive impact that is needed across all sectors. There is a lack of sufficient information and data on what works in positive youth development programs; what research does exist has rarely been generated from the perspectives of young leaders.

Youth Excel will strengthen the impact of youth-led, local development efforts by



strengthening capacity of youth-led and youth-serving organizations to conduct quality implementation research and to use data to strengthen their social impact;



supporting dialogue, collaboration, learning, partnerships, systems and networks amongst youth and adult stakeholders;



promoting policies and decisions through knowledge and data, youth-led and youth-adult collaborative advocacy;



disseminating data, knowledge, and evidence to support cross-sectoral youth development.

What is Implementation Research (IR)?

- ✔ Improves impact by linking research and practice within social impact project, by collecting data about how and why implementation is working or not working within different contexts to make real-time adaptations and improvements
- ✔ Strengthens understanding about the solution's feasibility, scale, effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, sustainability and fidelity to and adaptability of evidence-based models.

Technical sectors

- ✔ Education
- ✔ Employment
- ✔ Inclusion and Equity
- ✔ Civic engagement
- ✔ Peacebuilding
- ✔ Reproductive health
- ✔ Mental health
- ✔ Agriculture
- ✔ Technology
- ✔ Environment
- ✔ Water

Youth Excel is a five-year program funded by USAID and implemented by IREX and its Our Knowledge, Leading Change consortium.



For more information, please contact excelyouth@irex.org

Shared Value Partnerships: How can Youth Excel support your strategic goals?

We believe that strategic *partnerships* are vehicles for greater impact to address the urgent and complex challenges of our time. Youth Excel aims to cultivate partnerships centered on collaborative relationships and strategic alliances to work towards mutually agreed objectives that advance both program goals and our partners' missions and objectives, to create shared purpose, value and greater impact. Youth Excel takes a human-centered design approach in all activities.



Strengthen your organizational impact and growth

- ✔ Develop a research effort/collaboration on your priority research topics
- ✔ Access fresh ideas, knowledge for innovation, scalable impact through research and data, generated for and by youth
- ✔ Access new investment opportunities, ideas, including youth ventures and projects
- ✔ Access data to understand youth perspectives / realities and improve youth engagement
- ✔ Connect with youth with in-demand skills and a commitment to social impact



Catalyze your sustainable social impact

- ✔ Engage your employees with opportunities to contribute to social issues and professional development (public speaking, serving as expert or mentor)
- ✔ Strengthen the enabling environment by influencing broader agendas and policies through advocacy, collaborating with other stakeholders
- ✔ Contribute to development outcomes for prosperous, inclusive and just societies



Expand your positive brand reach, visibility, and impactful partnerships

- ✔ Increase your positive brand visibility
- ✔ Learn from youth-friendly messaging & outreach strategies that engage youth through human-centered design
- ✔ Extend your organization's network reach and your impactful multi-sector partnerships with others who have shared priorities

Opportunities for Partnership

Partnership opportunities are developed collaboratively between Youth Excel and a partner. Below are illustrative opportunities. Engagement opportunities are flexible and can deepen over time to offer partners a chance to contribute while learning from the program and from collaborators on shared development priorities. Please contact excelyouth@irex.org to learn more.

- Fund a research grant competition focused on a priority research topic or question.
- Collaborate with youth on a research topic relevant to a local priority and context.
- Fund a collaborative impact activity on a priority research topic and locality.
- Share your and your colleagues' expertise through speaking engagements, serving on selection committees, as a mentor to youth to strengthen 21st century competencies related to leadership, digital, data and research.
- Provide your network and platform(s) to extend the dissemination, and collaborative advocacy reach of knowledge and data on development priorities.

Youth Excel Consortium

Lead: IREX
 ABAAD
 Afrika Youth Movement
 Ashoka Youth Venture
 Root Change
 Tech Tribes
 The Biz Nation
 The Youth Café
 Search for Common Ground
 UNOY-Peacebuilders
 University of Minnesota

