



WHY A POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEARNING AGENDA

The purpose of this learning agenda is to define priority questions in the field of Positive Youth Development (PYD) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). This PYD learning agenda builds upon the findings of the Systematic Review of PYD Programs in LMICs that highlighted gaps in the evidence for what works and for whom. It was developed in consultation with youth-serving and youth development practitioners, researchers, evaluators, and funders. The primary goal of the learning agenda is to provide collective guidance for a common agenda to address evidence gaps and invest in evidence-building activities related to PYD. This learning agenda also provide guidance for potential ways to answer those questions. The main audiences for this learning agenda are those who design, implement, and evaluate youth programs. While developed by YouthPower Learning with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), anyone who works with youth in LMICs can respond to this learning agenda and advance the PYD field.

The PYD learning agenda prioritizes five themes to serve as anchors to guide future research on PYD programs in LMICs. This agenda is intended to stimulate both learning and action for immediate next steps, such as, determining how best to sustain PYD policies, programs, and strategies that are found to be effective, and what resources are needed to implement PYD approaches at scale.

LEARNING AGENDA FOR POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN LOW AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ENGAGES YOUTH ALONG WITH THEIR FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND/OR GOVERNMENTS SO THAT YOUTH ARE EMPOWERED TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. PYD APPROACHES BUILD SKILLS, ASSETS AND COMPETENCIES; FOSTER HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS; STRENGTHEN THE ENVIRONMENT; AND TRANSFORM SYSTEMS.



Photo Credit: Zahur Ranjif (AKDN)



HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

The development of this learning agenda was designed to be the first of many steps toward better understanding when and how PYD approaches work in LMICs. There is a tremendous need to invest in advancing the field, piloting new strategies, and rigorously evaluating and documenting programs that are being implemented. A key next step is to collectively build the evidence base about how, when and where PYD works. Further investments in LMICs are needed to increase understanding about PYD across the five thematic areas. It is our hope that the community of practitioners and researchers interested in PYD will take a role in bringing the agenda to life – contributing related findings to help answer these important questions. Ultimately our learning can lead to evidence-based programs that provide meaningful improvements in the lives of the youth we serve.

If you have learning to share or want to know how you can contribute, please contact YouthPower Learning at info@youthpower.org and visit our website at www.youthpower.org/PYD-Learning-Agenda.

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USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



PEPFAR
U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

YOUTHPOWER
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PYD LEARNING AGENDA THEMES AND QUESTIONS

THEME 1

UNDERSTANDING HOW PYD PROGRAMS ACHIEVE POSITIVE IMPACT IN LMIC

- ➔ Do PYD programs in LMICs achieve their longer-term/sectoral outcomes by effecting PYD outcomes?
- ➔ How can PYD programs that have proven to be effective be adapted to different contexts?

THEME 2

CROSS-SECTORAL IMPACT OF PYD PROGRAMS

- ➔ Do PYD programs have significant positive effects on outcomes in multiple sectors?
- ➔ What are the best ways to design and implement PYD programs with cross-sector outcomes in LMICs?

THEME 3

MEASUREMENT OF PYD CONSTRUCTS

- ➔ What processes or strategies are critical for adaptation of reliable and valid PYD tools to different contexts?
- ➔ How do we best measure the implementation of PYD approaches at the program, system or agency?

THEME 4

PYD FOR VULNERABLE OR MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS

- ➔ What are the barriers to and facilitators for including vulnerable or marginalized populations in universal PYD programs?
- ➔ How effective are tailored PYD programs at serving the needs of vulnerable or marginalized populations?

THEME 5

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN PYD PROGRAMS

- ➔ What strategies are effective in enabling meaningful youth engagement?
- ➔ What are the best ways to measure and evaluate the impact of various levels of youth engagement on intended PYD?