

Global LEAD Initiative

Global Leadership and Education Advancing Development

*Supporting One Million Young People as
Partners in Development*

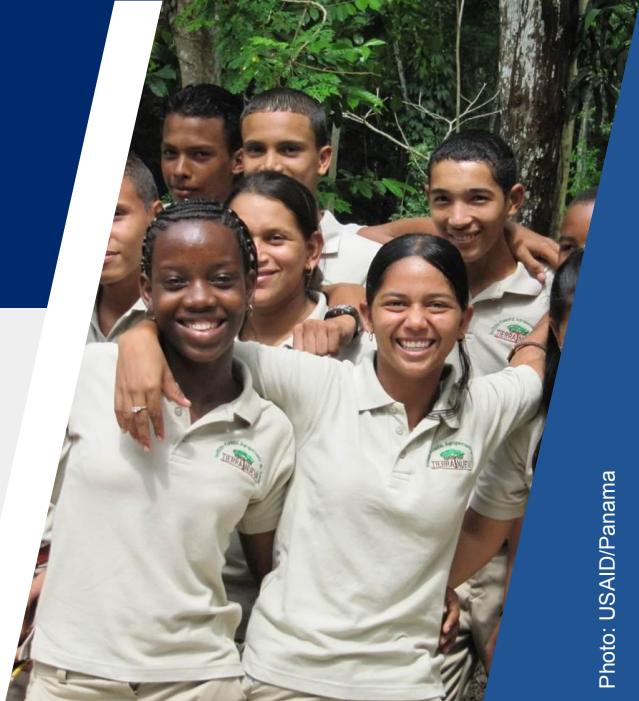


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OVERVIEW

Global LEAD is USAID's Agency-wide initiative to support the capacity and commitment of young people as partners in building healthy, peaceful, prosperous, and democratic communities. USAID engages young people at the local, national, and global levels to promote innovative solutions to critical development challenges. The initiative builds on the Agency's current work with young leaders, higher education institutions, civil society, and other partners to develop a continuum of education, civic skills and engagement, and leadership development activities across sectors. Global LEAD supports Missions to respond to the needs of emerging young leaders and meet development priorities through:



Technical Assistance for Program Design



Platforms for Youth Engagement



Tools to Integrate Youth Throughout the Program Cycle



Communications Support

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN YOUNG LEADERS

Investing in youth development underpins efforts to bolster democratic resilience. Polls of young people, both in the U.S. and globally, have shown a large decline in trust and admiration for the U.S. For the first time in decades, authoritarian-leaning regimes outnumber democratic-leaning ones.

USAID supports models of youth development that develop critical thinking skills; foster freedom of thought and expression; and advance sustainable economic growth, inclusion, democracy, and opportunity. USAID believes that equal access to quality education and civic engagement are foundational drivers of a country's overall development. Therefore U.S. investments in international education and leadership development with partner countries are critical to strengthening local capacity and promoting democratic norms and values.

GLOBAL MECHANISMS FOR YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Two of the various USAID mechanisms that can be used to procure Global LEAD activities across any technical sector, operating unit, or geographic location are:

- **YouthPower 2:** The suite of activities includes YouthPower2 Learning and Evaluation and Youth Excel for cross-sectoral action research, as well as the YouthPower Annual Program Statement (APS). These can be used by Missions and Bureaus for youth programming to generate cross-sectoral Positive Youth Development outcomes.
- **HELIX:** The Higher Education for Leadership, Innovation, and Exchange APS can be used to develop opportunities to improve the capacity of individuals, higher education institutions, and/or systems to serve local development needs.

YOUTH IMPERATIVE

As USAID turns 60 years old, our vision for the next decade aligns with a new generation of dynamic, innovative young leaders and citizens who champion democratic values and are motivated and empowered to organize and work for a more peaceful and just world.

YOUTH PROGRAMS AND NETWORKS

Strengthening current country, regional, and global youth leadership initiatives, bilateral education programming, and youth networks will create new leadership skills training and educational opportunities, including in social and economic entrepreneurship, vocational education and training, and advanced degree training.

Current USAID regional and country-level leadership programs and networks include: Young African Leaders Initiative, Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative, Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative, European Democracy Youth Network, and YouthLead (Global, with country-level youth networks in 14+ countries).

GLOBAL LEAD ACTIVITIES

Activities aligned with the Global LEAD Initiative run along a continuum including education, civic engagement, and leadership development:

EDUCATION

Activities that improve civic skills, sense of agency, and civic mindset, such as:

- Teacher training on civics curriculum
- Media literacy training
- Debate programs

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Activities that increase youth participation in civic activities, such as:

- Service learning, volunteerism
- Community mapping, participatory research
- Voter registration, youth wings of political parties

LEADERSHIP

Activities that catalyze youth to take leadership roles in civic spaces, such as:

- Leadership training
- Capacity building of youth-led organizations
- Membership in advisory bodies

ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES THROUGH YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



- **The Ma3an Project** engages young people in Tunisia to identify and reduce community-specific vulnerabilities, including **pandemic response** activities such as distributing health information and financial resources.
- Under the “**Men Ozem Chechem**” (“**I Decide Myself**”) campaign in Kyrgyzstan, democracy camps help young people learn about topics such as human rights, elections, gender equality, and media literacy.
- **YouthMappers** built a global student network that organizes, collaborates, and implements mapping activities which respond to actual development needs using open source **digital platforms and data**.
- **The JaREACH program** advanced youth innovation and participation on **climate action** by engaging young leaders in conservation in their communities in Jamaica.
- The **DREAMS Ambassador Program** under PEPFAR engages young women in community leadership around **HIV/AIDS prevention** across Africa and in Haiti.

