

# YouthPower2: Learning and Evaluation

## Background

With 1.2 billion youth in the world,<sup>1</sup> it is crucial that we meaningfully engage them to create positive social change for themselves, their families, and their communities in order for everyone to thrive. Positive Youth Development (PYD) is a widely accepted philosophy and approach that, when applied appropriately, ensures youth are empowered to reach their full potential. PYD approaches build skills, assets, and competencies; foster healthy relationships; strengthen the environment; and transform systems. In 2015, USAID funded the YouthPower Learning project to expand the evidence base for what works in PYD and build the capacity of youth development practitioners, researchers, and other relevant stakeholders to apply PYD on the ground. Building upon that success, the USAID-funded follow-on activity, YouthPower2: Learning and Evaluation (YP2LE), deepens the integration of PYD evidence and best practices into youth programming, ensuring more sustainable change.

## Description

YP2LE brings the Youth in Development Policy to life by enabling investments in PYD research and evaluation within and across multiple sectors, including health, education, agriculture/food security, economic opportunity, peace and security, democracy, and human rights and governance. The Activity builds and disseminates PYD evidence across multiple sectors; offers leadership in promoting PYD best practices; and provides rapid response, technical assistance to USAID staff to design, implement, and evaluate youth engagement.



YP2LE activities are designed to examine the impact of cross-sectoral youth programming, in collaboration with USAID, YouthPower implementing partners, PYD researchers, youth-led and youth-serving organizations, individual young change-makers, and other relevant stakeholders (e.g., USAID Washington-based instruments and country-level implementation mechanisms; other donors; U.S. government agencies; local and international civil society organizations; host-country governments; and multilateral agencies). The goal of these activities is to give practitioners the information, tools, and resources they need to develop high-quality, impactful, and sustainable youth programs, allowing empowered youth, working with supportive adults, to create sustainable change in individuals and systems through a four-pronged approach.

## Research

Starting with the task of building cutting-edge, relevant PYD evidence, YP2LE brings together prominent researchers to answer the questions in USAID's PYD Learning Agenda and other youth development learning agendas, aggregating priority themes and developing research and technical reports, guidance, and learning products on the results. Some examples include [Cost Analysis for Positive Youth Development](#), the [Youth Civic Engagement Country Dashboard](#), and the [Literature Review of PYD Impacts on Marginalized and Vulnerable Youth](#).

<sup>1</sup> 2018 UN World Youth Report.  
[https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/wp-](https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2018/12/WorldYouthReport-2030Agenda.pdf)

## Learning Network

At the same time, YP2LE creates a vibrant Learning Network that engages a variety of relevant global stakeholders (including local, nontraditional partners and youth) to unlock collaborative learning and transform mindsets through innovation to improve skills, practices, and partnerships around international cross-sectoral PYD. The network strengthens public-private, multi-donor, and multi-stakeholder partnerships around PYD and engages young people. Some regular YP2LE events include the [Communities of Practice meetings](#) and webinars on various topics, such as [recent toolkits](#), [trainings](#), and [publications](#).

## Digital Platforms and Champions

YP2LE activities generate actionable knowledge, which is accessible both through our state-of-the-art learning and exchange platforms and through young changemakers, who amplify PYD lessons throughout their communities and networks. These [actions](#) are visible on our platforms and through discussion groups on [YouthPower.org](#) and [YouthLead.org](#).

## Rapid Response Technical Support

YP2LE works collaboratively with missions and operating units, through a highly flexible buy-in mechanism, to develop and implement a scope of work with a PYD lens. This technical assistance can include performing country youth assessments (e.g., the [Eastern and Southern Caribbean Cross-Sectoral Youth Assessment](#), the [Ghana Youth Assessment](#)) and activity design and evaluation (e.g., the [Global LEAD toolkit](#), the [Youth Center Toolkit](#)). The YP2LE team also provides advice on how to engage with youth and youth-led and youth-serving organizations as well as build the capacity of local institutions to design and conduct assessments and evaluations (e.g., [Opportunities for Youth Employment in the Health and Social Sectors and Mozambique](#) report, [Youth Assessments 101 Brief](#)).

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## YP2LE TEAM

### YP2LE Lead:

Making Cents International

### Partners:

FHI 360

Global Knowledge Initiative

International Center for Research on Women

Mathematica Policy Research

NORC

Restless Development

The Cloudburst Group

University of Melbourne

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

Voluntary Services Overseas

Youth Alive Uganda

For public inquires and additional information,  
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[YouthPower.org](https://www.youthpower.org)

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