

ABOUT US

The International Youth Foundation (IYF) stands *by, for, and with young people*. Founded in 1990, IYF is a global nonprofit that has worked in more than 100 countries in close collaboration with over 600 local partners to directly serve more than 7.7 million young people, and indirectly serve 12 million young people. Together with local community-based organizations and a network of corporate, foundation, bilateral, and multilateral partners, we connect young people with opportunities to transform their lives. We believe that educated, employed, engaged young people possess the power to solve the world's toughest problems, and we focus our youth development efforts on three linked objectives: unlocking youth agency, driving economic opportunity, and making systems more inclusive. Our vision is to see young people *inspired and equipped to realize the future they want*.

OUR APPROACH

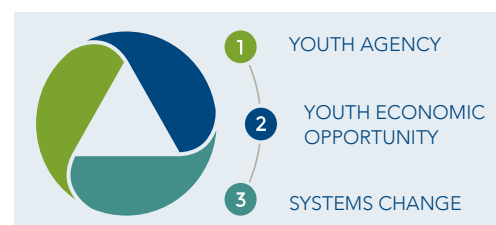
With the launch of our strategic plan, *Transformation 2022*, we are deepening our focus on three areas crucial to connecting young people with opportunities to transform their lives: *Youth Agency*, *Economic Opportunity*, and *Systems Change*.

The three components of our approach support each other. We recognize that agency and economic opportunity are often limited, not by young people themselves, but by systems like markets, local governments, schools, even families. IYF invests in changing those systems to unlock agency and economic opportunity for young people.

Unlocking Youth Agency: IYF values youth as assets and problem-solvers. We equip young people to increase their sense of agency, helping them to make decisions and drive change in their lives and spheres of influence. IYF supports youth in developing critical life skills and civic competencies, such as belief in themselves and respect for others, as well as engaging effectively as community members. IYF equips and empowers young people to hold leaders and institutions accountable and supports them as they grow and sustain development solutions. IYF also works with adults and institutions to build systems that work for youth.

Driving Economic Opportunity: IYF expands economic opportunities for young people by preparing them for employment and entrepreneurship, as well as by building connections among learning systems, communities, employers, and other stakeholders. Targeting high-growth industries, we identify skills mismatches between young people and economic opportunities. Then we provide training, career guidance, and job placement support. Through programs that respond to unique labor market conditions, we ensure that young people gain social-emotional, academic, professional, and technical skills. IYF also prepares young people for self-employment through a range of entrepreneurship curricula and tools promoting skills such as negotiation, networking, and management. We work to connect these young people to critical services, such as market information and financial services.

To create a supportive environment for youth to thrive, IYF provides technical assistance to support employers, training institutions, financial service providers, communities, and other stakeholders to adopt youth-inclusive practices and better respond to youth needs.



Since 2001, IYF's YouthActionNet[®] initiative has supported 2,000+ young social entrepreneurs from 94 countries with training, funding, resources, and networking opportunities.

IYF's Zimbabwe:Works project provided nearly 29,000 young people with market-relevant skills and services, who were then projected to earn over USD \$31 million in incremental income over a 12-month period through employment and business growth.



Making Systems More Inclusive: IYF facilitates change within existing systems that provide employment and self-employment opportunities to young people, such as Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) systems and agricultural market systems. Our approach begins with a detailed ecosystem analysis that examines factors including the labor market, entrepreneurship landscape, key stakeholders, formal and informal structures within the system, and key challenges among target beneficiaries. IYF establishes multi-stakeholder alliances including governments, learning institutions, industry associations, and others who use findings from the ecosystem analysis to develop appropriate solutions to improve the system.

Programs may adapt solutions from IYF's suite of existing tools or develop new customized solutions. IYF facilitates adoption of solutions by piloting and adjusting them, monitoring and evaluating them, and coaching partners to adopt and institutionalize new solutions.

IYF's Rutas project in Mexico reached over 90,000 young people across 63 school campuses and improved teaching practices for 1,000 teachers. Rutas achieved five national and six state-level policy changes that will continue to impact future students.



OUR GROUNDING PRINCIPLES

Positive Youth Development: Amplify youth voices, position youth as decision-makers, and account for the many opportunities and challenges faced by young people around the world.

Evidence-based Learning: Use evidence and knowledge to inform programs and achieve results that improve the lives of young people. Capture high quality data through IYF's measurement, evaluation, research, and learning systems to promote more effective solutions.

Gender Equity and Social Inclusion: Address the specific needs of distinct populations, including young women and men, ethnic and racial minorities, youth who identify as LGBTQI, young people with disabilities, and young people disconnected from school and work.

Locally Owned and Locally Led: Ground programs in local contexts through leadership by local partners and IYF's local staff in the countries where we work.

Partnership: Forge alliances with corporations, employers, local organizations, governments, communities, youth and other stakeholders to create the best solutions to specific challenges.

Ecosystems Approach: Create greater systemic change impacting youth at scale and enable young people to influence the systems around them.



CONTACT US

Anna Schowengerdt, EVP, Programs & Business Development, a.schowengerdt@iyfnet.org



OUR ASSETS

- Collaborative strategies to drive systems change
- Youth-informed digital solutions
- Highly experiential life skills curricula
- Demand-driven workforce development programs
- Networks to accelerate youth social entrepreneurship
- Tools for gender equity and social inclusion