

Preparing Youth for the

World of Work

The International Youth Foundation's Leader with Associates Award



YOUTH:WORK

a program of the International Youth Foundation

Today's youth, particularly in developing countries, face persistent barriers to decent work, relevant education, and social inclusion. Despite these enormous obstacles, however, many young people work diligently to better their own lives and the well-being of their families. When provided with the necessary support and opportunities to realize their potential, they can contribute to stronger communities and revitalized economies. Youth:Work serves these dedicated young men and women.

Youth:Work—Building for the Future

Under Youth:Work, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Youth Foundation (IYF) bring comprehensive youth development programs to underserved, disadvantaged young people, ages 15 to 29, living in every corner of the globe, including those threatened by violence, extremism, and HIV/AIDS. Most disadvantaged youth need a wide range of services, including job training, life skills, employment assistance, and support for entrepreneurship. IYF programs meet these needs individually and holistically. Through its multisectoral programming, IYF prepares young people to succeed at work while simultaneously developing the capacity of local partners, communities, and governments to provide youth services. Most importantly, Youth:Work prepares young people to be agents of positive change in their own lives and in their societies.

Programs and Services

Youth:Work programs offer:

- vocational and technical training, including opportunities to gain work experience and develop contacts through internships, apprenticeships, and mentorships.
- employability and life skills training, ranging from basic literacy and numeracy to teamwork, job interview skills, and health information.
- entrepreneurship training and support for job creation through hands-on management experience, business plan development, coaching, and access to loans for youth enterprises.
- job placement assistance and career counseling to provide continued support after the completion of training.
- additional support services, including activities that nurture volunteerism, promote civic engagement, and help youth understand local labor markets.

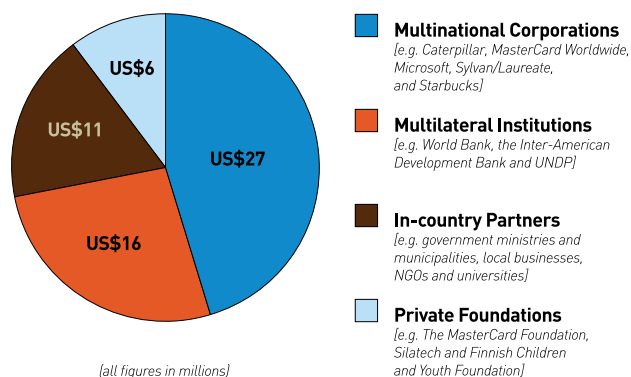
- comprehensive assessments of youth well-being, including employment, education, civic engagement, health status, and youth aspirations at a national or community level.

Youth:Work programs and services are adaptable in content, scope, scale, and setting, enabling USAID Missions to focus training on the needs of special populations, such as out of school youth, former gang members, or prisoners, or on youth in particular settings, such as urban, rural, conflict, or post-conflict areas.

Approach

IYF excels at helping young people create their own futures because its programs are supported by up-to-date evidence, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) expertise, and strong partnerships.

IYF is committed to rigorous M&E and is highly regarded for its ability to gather facts, interpret data, make evidence-based improvements, and share knowledge with global development partners.



Comprehensive rapid community appraisals provide the evidence base for IYF programs. By assessing each community for youth employment skills, job and community service opportunities, labor market needs, and available local services and support, IYF bases its innovative programs in real—not idealized—local contexts.

Inspired by IYF's commitment, programming, and approach, public and private partners have to date invested \$184 million in IYF's work with disadvantaged young people around the world. In addition, IYF grants and technical assistance have enabled hundreds of local partners to build their institutional capacity in youth development. The organization's ability to augment USAID investments by leveraging private, public, and nonprofit resources means that participating youth are served long after donor funding has ended.

Youth:Work Works for You

Youth:Work is a Global Development Alliance Leader with Associates assistance mechanism, which makes it easy for USAID Missions and Bureaus to design and implement *Youth:Work* programs. Associate Awards require no further competition or sole-source justification. Missions appoint Agreement Officers and their Representatives to oversee Associate Awards and control program budgets and implementation.

Associate Awards vary in size. Small awards may be used for assessments, small pilot programs, or for joining existing IYF activities. Medium-sized awards can fund larger pilot programs or expansions of successful pilots. Large awards can fund multi-year, crosscutting initiatives that draw on a number of IYF core competencies and involve more intensive Mission design involvement.

USAID Missions can tap a variety of funding sources to support a *Youth:Work* program. *Youth:Work* activities fall primarily in the areas of education, training, and economic growth, but PEPFAR funds can also support livelihood programs for orphans and vulnerable children. Other youth-targeted funding streams may support *Youth:Work* programming as well. For example, Feed the Future and Global Climate Change activities link youth to employment in the sustainable agriculture or renewable energy sectors, and they support activities conducted in partnership with local governments and the private sector.

To bring *Youth:Work* to your Mission, designate an Activity Manager who will serve as AOR when the award is signed.

The Activity Manager:

- develops a program description (in collaboration with IYF, as desired).
- clears the program description with the *Youth:Work* Leader AOR.
- sends the program description to IYF for proposal development (Missions may continue collaboration with IYF during this process, if desired).
- reviews IYF's proposal.

Based on input from the Activity Manager, the Agreement Officer approves IYF's proposal and issues an Associate Award to IYF.

For more information about *Youth:Work* and IYF's other youth employment strategies and successes, visit us online at www.iyfnet.org/YouthWork.

Youth:Work Jordan (2009–2014, US\$33 million) is a partnership between USAID, IYF, and the Jordanian government designed to improve opportunities for out-of-school and unemployed youth, ages 15 to 24. The program enhances marketable and entrepreneurial skills, strengthens the capacity of organizations to deliver effective youth services, and engages youth in efforts to improve their communities. Based on Rapid Community Appraisals in nine disadvantaged communities, IYF and its local partners support highly vulnerable youth through programs that provide education and training, life skills, and hands-on experience in paid work and internships. To date, IYF has leveraged over \$6 million in Jordanian and international private and public donations for the program from the World Bank, the Caterpillar Foundation, The MasterCard Foundation, Starbucks, Microsoft, and other donors.



ABOUT IYF

The International Youth Foundation (IYF) invests in the extraordinary potential of young people. Founded in 1990, IYF builds and maintains a worldwide community of businesses, governments, and civil society organizations committed to empowering youth to be healthy, productive, and engaged citizens. IYF programs are catalysts for change that help young people obtain a quality education, gain employability skills, make healthy choices, and improve their communities.

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