



Building Pathways to Thriving Futures

FHI 360 Youth Development Framework

Young people are advocates and changemakers, driving development efforts

There are more than 2.4 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 29 today, many of whom live in low- and middle-income countries. They are impacted by the world's major challenges: eroding social cohesion and rising inequality; growing global health threats; and proliferating crises, including climate change and violent conflict. However, young people are not just victims of these challenges; they are leading innovative solutions and demanding rights, justice and accountability in their communities and globally.



FHI 360's Youth Development Framework

FHI 360's framework identifies four key elements to incorporate into the design of any youth-focused or youth-inclusive program, regardless of sector:

Youth-responsive systems. Young people are involved in creating youth-responsive systems and holding actors within them accountable to provide accessible, safe, inclusive, youth-responsive and age-appropriate services, spaces and resources. Within these systems, practices, policies and norms support young people's needs and preferences.

Developmental relationships. Young people develop safe and supportive relationships and interactions with peers and adults in their environments which contribute to better outcomes for youth.

Skills building and experiential learning. Young people shape and access age- and context-appropriate experiential learning opportunities to develop and practice foundational and specialized skills and apply these skills in real-life settings.

Youth participation and action. Young people exercise their agency to pursue their goals and participate in society. They have access to opportunities and support to make informed decisions, express opinions and take actions that affect them and their communities.

Our framework recognizes that youth-responsive systems should enable youth to build the skills and relationships they need to pursue their goals and actively participate in society.

The framework has four cross-cutting principles:

Tailored and inclusive. FHI 360 tailors programs based on the context, developmental stages and ages, and the unique needs of diverse youth populations, including marginalized communities (for example, LGBTQI+, young people with disabilities, out-of-school young people, rural young people).

Safeguarding and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response. FHI 360 implements robust safeguarding policies and practices to keep program participants safe, as well as approaches to prevent and respond to GBV among youth.

Youth-driven solutions. FHI 360 wants young people to be active contributors and changemakers who have the support they need to drive solutions to challenges in their communities.

Locally led action. FHI 360 is committed to locally led development and prioritizes partnering with local actors—particularly government institutions and youth-serving and youth-led organizations—who have an existing mission to serve young people beyond the mandate and timeframe of a specific project.

Integrated Youth Development Approach

Since young people's needs and interests are not neatly packaged into one sector and are often intertwined, we recommend an integrated approach where possible. Through our programs, we provide integrated support for young people to meet their needs and goals across various aspects of their lives by:

Providing multiple types of support in a single location or by the same provider.

Facilitating linkages to different services (for example, through referrals).

Informing where, why and how to access services and resources.



We partner with young people to design and implement programs that:



Foster youth-responsive systems that enable them to:

Benefit from safe and supportive relationships

Build and apply skills

Make decisions and take action

Through an integrated approach to:

Understand

Young people's needs, priorities and desired outcomes, and their interconnectedness.

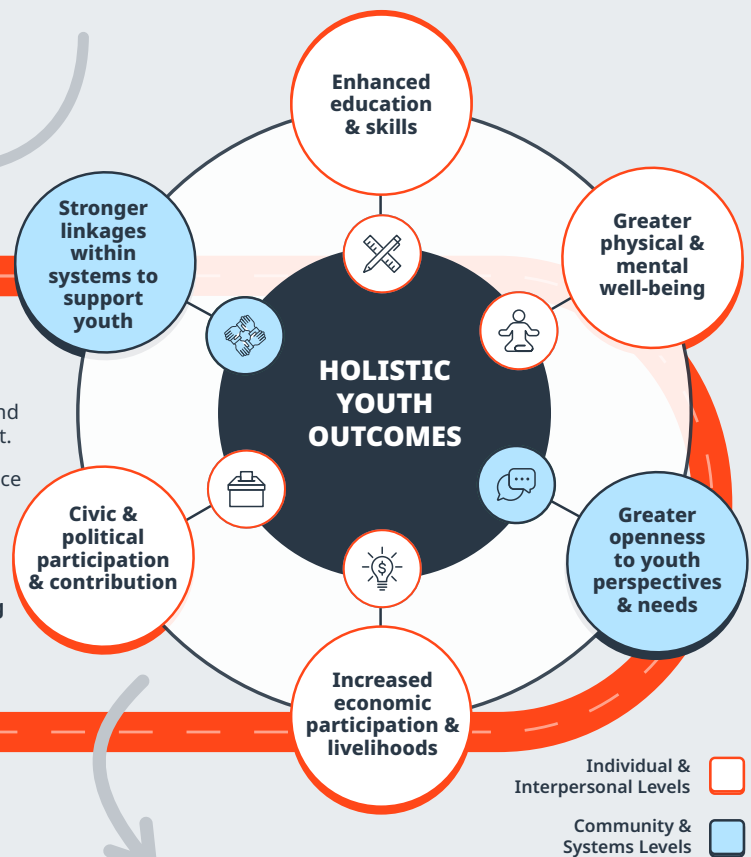
Communities and systems that impact youth to identify gaps in support and potential opportunities for integration.

Plan

With young people a vision for the future and a pathway to achieve it.

Mechanisms to enhance and better streamline support for youth.

Access Youth pursue their chosen pathway by accessing integrated support offered by system actors.



More inclusive, stable, peaceful and thriving communities and countries

When young people can access youth-responsive systems to gain and apply skills and benefit from safe and supportive relationships with peers and adults, they can make decisions to pursue their goals and actively participate in society. With integrated support, young people are better able to reach holistic positive outcomes and contribute to more inclusive, stable, peaceful, and thriving societies.

Youth Development in Action



FHI 360 leads the Compass Rose Collaborative, a project funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, to improve the education and employment outcomes of young adults (ages 18-24) after involvement in the U.S. criminal justice system. In Baltimore, Maryland, FHI 360 supports NCIA to connect young people with mentors to learn a range of professional skills -- from cooking to auto mechanics. Photo credit: Kyle Pompey for FHI 360

Supporting physical and mental well-being

The **MOSAIC** project, which is funded by PEPFAR through USAID, has a team of youth advocates from nine countries, under the age of 30 — the NextGen Squad — who ensure that HIV prevention programming aligns with young people's priorities, preferences and needs. They provide inputs on research, programming tools and resources, as well as research utilization and knowledge management strategies.

Enhancing education and skills

Through the **Elimu ni Jibu ya** project, which is funded by USAID, we support young people in the Democratic Republic of Congo who are at risk of withdrawing from school with tutoring and catch-up classes. We provide in- and out-of-school young people with economic support through savings groups, nonconditional cash transfers, and clubs that engage girls on leadership, SRH, and community issues. We have reached nearly 320,000 young people through this project.

Fostering civic and political participation

Though the **Ma3an** project, which is funded by USAID, more than 28,000 young people in Tunisia participated in skills building and civic engagement opportunities. The project supported a network of young leaders to train other young people on communications, digital marketing and project management and to design and lead initiatives to address youth priorities in their communities.

Increasing economic participation and livelihoods

Under the **Burma Agri-Food Systems Development Activity**, which is funded through the Feed the Future initiative and led by ACIDI/VOCA, FHI 360 partnered with climate-smart agri-businesses to connect them with rural youth for internships and on-the-job learning. With our support, 1,310 youth found full-time employment in the agriculture sector and 405 young people gained agri-preneurship skills, leading to the creation of green, youth-led enterprises.

Contact Us

youthdevelopment@fhi360.org

About FHI 360: FHI 360 is a global organization that mobilizes research, resources and relationships so people everywhere have access to the opportunities they need to lead full and healthy lives. With collaborations in over 60 countries, we work directly with local leaders to advance social and economic equity, improve health and well-being, respond to humanitarian crises, and strengthen community resilience.

WASHINGTON DC OFFICE

2101 L Street NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20037 USA
T 1.202.884.8000
F 1.202.884.8400

FHI 360 HEADQUARTERS

359 Blackwell Street, Suite 200
Durham, NC 27701 USA
T 1.919.544.7040
F 1.919.544.7261

ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE

19th Floor, Tower 3
Sindhorn Building
130-132 Wireless Road
Kwaeng Lumpini, Khet Phatumwan
Bangkok 10330 Thailand
T 66.2.263.2300
F 66.2.263.2114

EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

1115 Burnett Street
Hatfield Square, Building 3, 4th Floor
Hatfield, Pretoria 0083 South Africa
T 27.12.762.4000
F 27.12.762.4001

www.fhi360.org