



Lowering barriers and unlocking the power of youth organizations

Margaret Wanja, Business Development Director, Youth for Sustainable Development / Kenya

Why partner with youth-led organizations?

- Value of youth partners in social accountability work
 - Giving youth opportunity to drive change according to what young people want & need
 - Bringing perspective & voice of youth to conversations and decision making
- Unique role YLOs play in social accountability
 - Ability to engage subgroups of adolescents and youth
 - Strong history & relationships with young people
 - Trusted reputation within community and distinction of being youth led

Barriers & challenges YLOs experience in partnerships

- Operating barriers within projects
 - Misperceptions
 - Power dynamics
 - Assumptions around relationships
- Partnership challenges
 - Contractual obligations
 - Respectful partnership communication and timelines
 - Cash flow
 - Assumptions & expectations around capacity

Best practices for partnership with YLOs

- Capacity development support
 - From the start of award, allocating funding for areas that are needed to build capacity
- Tailored mentorship and technical assistance
 - Continuous communication and support
 - Listening to the needs of youth partner
 - Organizing networking calls
 - Creating a learning journey with youth partner
 - Monthly learning calls

Opportunities for future partnerships with YLOs

- Promote the value & unique role of YLOs in social accountability (and other SRHR areas/projects)
 - Give us the chance to showcase our skills and opportunities to grow
- Empowering youth empowers whole community

Additional resources

- We Trust You(th)
- Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement and Partnership in Sexual and Reproductive Health Programming: A Strategic Planning Guide (High Impact Practice)