Lowering barriers and unlocking the power of youth organizations

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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)