



FACT SHEET

WHO WE ARE

Currently operating in 68 countries and territories, the **International Youth Foundation (IYF)** is dedicated to supporting programs that improve the conditions and prospects for young people where they live, learn, work, and play. Established in 1990, IYF has worked with hundreds of companies, foundations, and NGOs to strengthen and “scale up” proven programs that are making a positive and lasting difference in young lives. Since its founding, IYF and its partners have helped equip millions of young people with the life skills, education, job training, values, and opportunities so critical to their success.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Half the world’s citizens today—more than 3 billion young people—are under the age of 25. Each one of them holds the potential to lead productive and independent lives and to contribute positively to society. Yet far too many lack the skills or opportunities to stay in school, find and keep a job, become engaged in their community, or have real hope for a better future. IYF works to identify young people’s most pressing needs and aspirations, and supports effective programs to address them.

A GLOBAL NETWORK

IYF works with a network of independent organizations that collaborate on a global scale, yet are deeply engaged in addressing youth issues in their own countries. This Global Partner Network, made up of youth-serving organizations from around the world, is at the heart of IYF’s efforts to build sustainable and effective programs, and reflects our belief that those closest to the challenges are best able to address them. Each Partner organization is a leader in youth development, grounded in local culture, and committed to identifying and supporting “best practice” programs. Drawing on their constructive working relationships with leading business, government, and civil society leaders in their country, these organizations are able to maximize investments in youth initiatives.

IYF has also established strong working relationships with numerous other implementing organizations, primarily as a result of our multi-country or regional alliances.

ADDRESSING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Together with its partners around the world, IYF concentrates on four areas of activity that form the core of our global youth initiatives:

- **Education:** Ensuring children and youth, both in and out of school, have access to quality education and increased opportunities to learn
- **Employability:** Building young people’s employment and entrepreneurial skills so they can secure jobs and livelihoods in which they find dignity and earn an income that meets their needs
- **Health:** Preparing children and youth to lead healthy lives by equipping them with the knowledge and skills to make informed, healthy choices
- **Leadership and Engagement:** Promoting opportunities for young people to exercise their full leadership potential in order to effect positive social change in their communities

IYF also maintains a broad focus on equipping young people with essential “skills for life” such as critical thinking, conflict resolution, effective communications and teamwork.



BUILDING MULTI-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

No single sector of society has the resources or expertise to solve the critical challenges facing young people today. IYF seeks to increase the quality and quantity of investments in proven programs by forging strategic partnerships among the business, government, and civil society sectors. These alliances enable us to implement initiatives that are often multi-country, multi-year commitments—and that demonstrate measurable positive impact on children and youth.

IYF has worked with dozens of global companies—including General Electric, Intel, Kellogg, Lucent Technologies, Merrill Lynch, Microsoft, Nike, and Nokia—by developing youth initiatives that match their CSR and business needs and engage employees. IYF also gains critical support from bi- and multi-lateral agencies and governments, including the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Examples of global initiatives include:

- **Entra 21:** US\$27 million initiative with the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank, training 19,000 unemployed youth in Latin America and Caribbean in IT, life and job skills, and placing up to half of them in jobs.
- **Make a Connection:** A global life skills program of IYF and Nokia, active now in 22 countries, that to date has directly benefited more than 280,000 youth worldwide.
- **Education and Employment Alliance:** Multi-sector initiative to expand education and employment opportunities among youth in Egypt, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan and the Philippines, supported through a US\$11 million start-up grant from USAID.
- **Empowering Africa's Young People Initiative:** HIV/AIDS prevention program to reach 500,000 young people, ages 10 to 24, and 200,000 adults, in Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

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CONTACT US

To learn more about IYF, visit our website at www.iyfnet.org or write to us at youth@iyfnet.org.

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