



YIELD Hub

Measuring Youth Partnership

A Practical Guide

*Current efforts to measure the impacts of youth contribution and partnership within the **Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (AYSRRH)** field are hindered by limited resources available for monitoring and evaluation and the splintered and disconnected nature of what to measure within the SRHR field.*

Themes for Exploration

Several important themes emerged from the topic of Measuring Youth Partnership. These themes reflect the challenges that many organisations face when striving to create more meaningful and inclusive youth engagement. Take a moment to **review the themes** below, consider how your organisation implements the practices described under each theme, and **rate your progress** using the scale provided for each theme. Mark the stars to rate your progress.



01. Transforming youth inclusion

Is your organisation's approach to evaluating youth programs and partnerships influenced by young people who actively participate in your organisation?



02. Power sharing

Youth need to be involved in all organisational areas and processes, from project design, budget planning, research, all the way to forming part of an organisation's advisory board or trustees. Is this illustrated in the Theory of Change or Organisational Strategy in a way that allows for equal and collaborative relationships with young people at all levels?



03. Conducive youth engagement

When it comes to meaningful and diverse youth participation, who is your work engaging and who is left out? Are you learning from past programs and documentation that sheds light on what works for youth engagement, contribution, and how to measure that impact?



04. Training & Exposure

It's necessary to assess what young people want through evaluations. But more than anything, it's important to actually provide training opportunities to allow them to grow knowledge and skills in several aspects of the organisation's work. Is your organisation creating spaces, events, and platforms that would allow youth to advance their skills and share their ideas freely?



Rating Themes – Scoring Guide



Excellent implementation, with practices fully integrated and exemplary.



Strong implementation with good practices in place, minor improvements needed.



Moderate implementation with consistent efforts, but room for improvement.



Some efforts made, but practices are sporadic and not well integrated.



Minimal or no implementation of the theme in organisational practices.

Self-assessment

Lower scores (1-2 stars) suggest starting with Foundational Level strategies in the practical guide to build a stronger basis towards youth partnership and measurement. Moderate scores (3 stars) indicate readiness to refine existing practices. You should look at the guide's Proficient Level recommendations, activities, and tools. High scores (4-5 stars) imply a strong foundation, allowing your organisation to focus on Advanced Level strategies within the guide, aiming for innovation and sector leadership. Whether you're looking to build foundational strategies, enhance your proficient practices, or innovate at an advanced level, the guide provides a valuable resource for progressing in each of these critical areas of meaningful youth partnership.

Organisational Levels of Development

The scores above should indicate where your organisation stands in its journey towards ensuring meaningful and inclusive youth partnerships (MIYP). Based on this rating, different means and methods are available to evaluate and achieve your goals. Below are three levels: **Foundational**, **Proficient**, and **Advanced**. Depending on the level of work your organisation has done so far, each level offers recommendations, actions, and tools to help you progress towards your goal. We've created a checklist for each level description to help you determine from which level to begin making use of the recommendations. If you've checked 3 or less points from a level's checklist, this means that this is the level you should begin.

1. Foundational Level

The Foundational level is the starting point for organisations beginning their journey in measuring youth partnership. At this stage, organisations are laying the groundwork, understanding basic concepts, and establishing initial processes. This level involves understanding the basics of youth engagement, ensuring inclusivity, and beginning to integrate lived youth experiences meaningfully into the organisation's programs.

Checklist

	Baseline Data Collection: Has your organisation conducted a baseline assessment to understand the current state of youth engagement and partnership?
	Measurable Goals for Youth Engagement: Have you defined clear, measurable goals for youth engagement that align with your organisation's overall objectives?
	Development of Simple Indicators: Have you identified simple, yet effective, indicators to measure the progress and impact of youth partnerships?
	Initial Data Collection on Youth Engagement: Are you collecting data on youth engagement activities, capturing both quantitative and qualitative aspects?
	Data Review for Youth Partnership Improvement: Do you regularly review the collected data to identify trends, successes, and areas for improvement in youth partnerships?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Remember to create an open and welcoming environment for young people to share their ideas and experiences. Establish clear communication channels to facilitate effective collaboration between youth and other members of the organisation in the process of data collection.

2. Proficient Level

At the Proficient level, organisations have established and are actively implementing strategies for youth partnership. They explore and use practical indicators and tools for evaluating youth-adult partnerships and document experiences to continuously improve their approaches. These organisations have a clearer understanding of the impact of youth partnerships and are integrating them more effectively into their operations.

Checklist

	Youth Involvement in Measurement Tools: Does your organisation involve young people in co-creating and refining measurement tools and indicators?
	Comprehensive Data Collection Plan: Have you developed a comprehensive data collection plan that includes diverse methods to capture a wide range of youth partnership activities and outcomes?
	Data-Informed Decision-Making: Do you utilise data to inform decision-making, adjusting youth partnership strategies based on evidence and insights gained?
	Use of Digital Tools for Data Analysis: Are digital tools and platforms employed for more efficient data collection and analysis related to youth partnerships?
	Regular Measurement and Reporting: Is there a system in place for measuring and reporting on youth partnership outcomes at regular intervals?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



1. Develop and utilise feedback mechanisms that allow youth to share their perspectives on your partnership strategies.
2. Regularly review and adjust your measurement tools and indicators to ensure they remain relevant and effective.
3. Encourage innovation and flexibility in your approaches to measuring youth partnership, allowing for creative methods that resonate with young people.

3. Advanced Level

Organisations at the Advanced level are leaders in measuring youth partnership. They exhibit a deep, strategic commitment to youth engagement, with mature, well-developed processes and a culture that fully embraces youth partnership. They create enabling environments for successful youth partnerships and develop comprehensive strategies for meaningful youth partnership (MYP) across their operations.

Checklist

	Publication of Methodologies and Findings: Does your organisation document and publish advanced methodologies and findings on measuring youth partnerships?
	Collaboration with Research Institutions: Have you collaborated with research institutions to validate your measurement approaches and explore innovative methodologies?
	Leadership in Sector-Wide Measurement Discussions: Does your organisation lead sector-wide discussions on effective measurement of youth partnerships, advocating for best practices and standardised indicators?
	Mentoring on Effective Measurement Strategies: Do you mentor other organisations in developing and implementing effective measurement strategies for youth partnerships?
	Integration of Advanced Analytics: Are advanced analytics and impact assessment tools integrated to capture the long-term effects and sustainability of youth partnerships?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



1. Document and disseminate your methodologies and findings on measuring youth partnership, highlighting both successes and areas for improvement.
2. Foster partnerships with academic institutions or research bodies to explore innovative measurement approaches and validate your methods.
3. Actively seek out and engage in opportunities to influence policy and practice at regional, national, and international levels, advocating for effective youth partnership measurement standards.

Recommendations & Sample Actions

You may now move on to the level that indicates your organisational development best and implement the recommendations that align with your goals.

Level 1: Foundational



Recommendations	Activity	Tools & Resources
Establish a baseline for youth engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct a survey to assess current levels of youth participation.• Hold focus groups with youth to discuss their current involvement and aspirations.	<p>PDF LINK: SIDA Handbook on how to conduct baseline surveys</p> <p>Use survey platforms (e.g., SurveyMonkey, Google Forms)</p>
Set measurable objectives for youth engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop SMART goals related to youth participation.• Create a roadmap with clear milestones for enhancing youth engagement.	<p>LINK: Measuring Youth Engagement by Advocacy Accelerator</p> <p>Use project management tools (e.g., Trello, Asana)</p>
Engage young people in your organisation and ensure their experience is meaningful for the youth as well as for the program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct an audit of current youth engagement practices to identify strengths and gaps.• Map out potential opportunities for youth involvement across various programs, considering the impact and feasibility.• Implement a diversity and inclusion assessment to ensure representation and equity in youth engagement.• Develop and implement a comprehensive youth involvement review and evaluation framework.	<p>- Rutgers has looked at the inclusivity aspect of MIYP within their programmes and developed a tool on the aspect of inclusivity, view it here.</p> <p>- PDF LINK: Youth Participation Toolkit by Save the Children</p> <p>- Use evaluation frameworks like the Logic Model or Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) for structured review processes.</p>



Level 2: Proficient



Recommendations

Activity

Tools & Resources

Enhance data collection and analysis methods

- Implement mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative) for data collection.
- Use data analytics to evaluate the impact of youth engagement activities.

Use data collection software (e.g., Qualtrics)

Use data analysis tools (e.g., SPSS, Excel)

Involve youth in the measurement process

- Organise workshops to co-develop measurement tools with youth.
- Establish a youth advisory board to review and provide feedback on measurement strategies.

LINK: [Measuring Youth Engagement by Advocacy Accelerator](#)

Explore practical indicators and tools that can assess youth-adult partnership in evaluating young people's programmes

- Conduct a literature review and benchmarking study on existing models and tools for assessing youth-adult partnerships.
- Host focus groups or roundtable discussions with stakeholders to understand the impact of cultural and social norms on partnerships.

- LINK: [Standards for engagement of youth in evaluation, created by Eval4Action in collaboration with UNFPA](#)

- PDF LINK: [Evaluating Participation Toolkit by YoungMinds](#)

- For virtual hosting use Zoom or Microsoft Teams, with features for breakout sessions and collaborative discussions.

Document experiences within youth-adult partnerships over the years

- Design and disseminate a comprehensive survey to capture qualitative and quantitative insights on youth-adult partnership experiences.
- Compile a report or case study series highlighting key findings, best practices, challenges, and opportunities for improvement.

Use survey design and distribution platforms like SurveyMonkey or Google Forms for collecting insights.

Use data analysis software (e.g., SPSS, Excel) for quantitative data analysis.

Level 3: Advanced



Recommendations	Activity	Tools & Resources
Share best practices and learnings sector-wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish case studies on successful youth engagement measurement. Host webinars or panels to discuss measurement strategies and outcomes. 	<p>Use publishing platforms (e.g., Medium, LinkedIn)</p> <p>PDF LINK: Designing Youth Participation Programmes by Save the Children</p>
Adopt innovative measurement technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore and implement advanced data collection technologies (e.g., mobile apps, social media analytics). Use predictive analytics to forecast future engagements. 	<p>Use advanced analytics software (e.g., Tableau, R)</p> <p>Use social media analytics tools (e.g., Hootsuite)</p>
Create a roadmap for continued meaningful youth engagement across the organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current MIYP internal literature and training materials. Orientate all staff and volunteers on MIYP. 	<p>LINK: MYE journey for organisations from HCDEXchange</p> <p>LINK: Indicators for youth partnership from YIELD Hub</p>
Create enabling environments or conditions of success for youth partnership as part of your theory of change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate a series of stakeholder consultations with INGO partners to benchmark enabling environments in the SRHR field. Conduct co-creation workshops with diverse youth groups, using participatory design techniques to integrate their input into the theory of change. Implement a real-time monitoring system for tracking progress against the work plan and adjusting strategies as needed. 	<p>Use Human Centred Design tools to help connect with young people in order to develop an Inclusive & Meaningful Engagement framework.</p> <p>PDF LINK: A Guide to Partnering with Youth-led Groups and Organisations by Plan International</p>

Next Steps

Well done if you've made it to the end of this resource, but we know that this is only the beginning of a journey that requires time, unlearning, consultations, plenty of collaboration, and significant budget support. We urge organisations to use this guide as a starting point for introspection and action. Engage with the themes, implement the recommendations, and take definitive steps towards integrating these learnings into your organisational strategies. Remember, the journey of measuring youth partnership is ongoing and dynamic. We encourage you to connect with others in this field, share your experiences and learnings, and continue to contribute to the evolving narrative of youth engagement.



Taking action

Still not sure where to start? Take our **Measuring Youth Partnership Quiz** to find out which level of actions apply to your organisation.

[Start Quiz](#)



Connect & Share

- Is your organisation on the journey to Measure Youth Partnership? We'd love to hear how this resource is helping you take action. **Tag us on social media, and include #LearningActivation**
- If you have made significant progress towards your goal but need more personalized and direct support, you can contact us. The YIELD Hub provides technical assistance in the form of consultancy services for organisations interested in delving deeper. **Send us an email, info@yieldhub.global**

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the ALC 2 member organisations for their invaluable contributions and insights. Their dedication over seven months has been instrumental in creating this comprehensive guide.

We also thank you, the reader, for your commitment to this important cause. Your efforts in measuring and valuing youth partnerships help us fulfill our mission to make youth partnership, not the exception but, the norm in the AYSRHR field.

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