



Promoting Positive Youth Development & the Advancement of Adolescent Girls and Young Women

Our Approach

Global Communities has implemented youth-centered programs focused on **civic engagement, economic development, health, and violence prevention** in more than 15 countries around the world. Our approach is rooted in the principles of positive **youth development (PYD)**, which position young people at the center of their own development. We work with youth as partners in creating supportive environments where they can freely and safely exercise their **voice, choice, and leadership** potential. We co-create pathways which help them fulfil their aspirations while building a sense of agency, belonging, and purpose. We also encourage youth to act as powerful **agents of change** in their communities, governments, and economies. Global Communities employs several cross-cutting strategies to accomplish these goals. First, we promote youth's **physical, cognitive, and emotional development** through skills-building, safe spaces, peer support, and protection services. Second, we partner with youth, families, community structures, and the private sector to cultivate an enabling environment and **foster positive relationships** among them. And third, we engage in capacity sharing with **youth-led and youth-serving organizations**.

Centering Adolescent Girls, Young Women and Disadvantaged Youth

Honoring our commitment to **gender equality** and **social inclusion**, Global Communities places a special focus on **adolescent girls and young women (AGYW)** as well as youth who experience **vulnerability** because of poverty, conflict, and violence. Working with families and communities, our programs challenge harmful gender norms, invest in AGYW's economic advancement, and strive to build supportive environments for AGYW, free of HIV and violence. We are a member of **Girls not Brides** and a fiscal agent of the **Coalition for Adolescent Girls**.

Mobilizing Youth's Civic Engagement

Global Communities works with youth and youth-led organizations to create pathways for meaningful civic engagement. We provide mentorship and training to young people in **leadership** and policy **advocacy**. We coach them in leading **community asset mapping** and **social network analyses** to understand challenges facing their communities. We then mobilize them to act as agents of positive change by designing their own advocacy campaigns, community projects, and

social ventures. Youth participating in our projects have implemented a wide range of initiatives, such as anti-bullying campaigns, incubators for social entrepreneurship, and cultural exchange activities for diverse ethnic groups. They have also shaped national youth policies. Finally, we help facilitate **safe spaces** for youth's civic participation, including learning clubs and Youth Local Councils.

Promoting Youth's Economic Empowerment

Global Communities blends PYD with a **market-based approach** to inspire youth **entrepreneurship** and prepare young people for entry into **workforce**. First, we work with educational institutions to offer in-demand life skills, technical, and vocational **training**. Second, we partner with the private sector to offer coaching and internship opportunities and co-create successful **career pathways** for youth. Third, we provide business skills training and startup grants to young **entrepreneurs**, and we encourage youth's participation in cooperative businesses and industries experiencing significant growth or labor shortfalls. Finally, we promote youth's **financial inclusion** through financial literacy training and youth savings groups.

Investing in Youth's Health, Well-Being and Food Security

Global Communities seeks to create healthy, nurturing environments for orphans, vulnerable children and adolescents and safely transition them into adulthood. Our programs increase uptake of **HIV prevention, care, and treatment** services; enhance **economic resilience**; and improve the delivery of coordinated **social services**. Our **DREAMS** (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe) interventions for AGYW improve access to sexual and reproductive health services and incorporate violence prevention. We also create safe spaces for AGYW in schools and communities and link their male partners to biomedical services.

Finally, we have two decades of experience delivering **integrated school feeding programs**.

Protecting Youth from Violence and Exploitation

Global Communities implements trauma-informed and conflict-sensitive approaches to prevent and mitigate the risks **child marriage, human trafficking**, and other forms of **gender-based violence**. We engage youth in peer learning and safe spaces to raise awareness, build empathy, and promote equitable relationships. We work with families and communities, including men, to address root causes of violence. We also provide **protection** services to women and girls affected by conflict and violence, including legal and psychosocial support.

Program Highlights

- Our **Up to Youth** program (2019–2024) mobilizes thousands of young people to create meaningful change in nine municipalities of **Kosovo**. Through such initiatives as the Social Change Fund and the School of Entrepreneurship, youth are designing and implementing their own business ventures and community development projects.
- Global Communities' **YouthPower** project (2017–2022) advanced youth's civic and economic participation in 60 communities across **Jordan**. YouthPower provided life skills training to more than 10,000 youth and vocational training to nearly 650 youth. In addition, the project awarded grants to 153 youth businesses and over 100 youth-led community initiatives. More than 400 trained youth contributed to the National Youth Strategy 2019–2025.
- In Sri Lanka, our **YouLead!** initiative increases the competitiveness of youth in the job market through technical, vocational, and business skills training as well as capacity strengthening for teachers and educational institutions.
- In **Kenya**, our **Cooperative Leadership, Engagement, Advocacy & Research (CLEAR)** program supports youth in creating their own businesses. In **Ethiopia**, our **Resilience in Pastoral Areas (RiPA)** project helps identify and strengthen market-driven opportunities for youth transitioning out of pastoralism, such as construction.
- Global Communities is implementing **Project ROOTS**—an after-school program that addresses the root causes of human trafficking through peer-to-peer group mentoring and social and emotional learning. Since 2014, Project ROOTS has reached over 1,200 elementary and middle school students across the **San Diego** county.
- In **India**, Global Communities has supported **UMANG**, which leveraged the power of women's self-help groups to encourage girls' education and challenge the acceptance of child marriage, and **Transformative Action for Rural Adolescents (TARA)**, which **prepared** rural, unmarried girls aged 15–19 for entry into workforce.
- Between 2020 and 2022, Global Communities implemented two initiatives supporting women and girls affected by protracted conflicts in **Northern Syria** and **Gaza**. In addition to psychosocial and legal counselling, the projects engaged men and conducted awareness raising sessions on gender equality and gender-based violence.
- In **Botswana**, Global Communities' **Comprehensive Care and Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)** Project provides HIV prevention services to OVC and includes a DREAMS component focused on AGYW..
- In **Zambia**, the **Chimwemwe Teens!** project, complementing the Empowered Children and Adolescents Program (ECAP II), trains AGYW as agents of change in a peer-to-peer approach to support access to reproductive health services and strengthen comprehensive HIV case management pathways.
- Under the **Youth Inclusive Entrepreneurial Development Initiative for Employment (YIEDIE)**, Global Communities co-created economic opportunities for youth in **Ghana's** booming construction sector.