



# Youth Leadership Development Foundation

---

## Future Leaders' Gate

March 2013



Contact Info: Tel: +967 1 471 677/ Fax: +967 1 290 873/ P.O.Box: 14321/ [www.yldf.org](http://www.yldf.org)

## Youth Leadership Development Foundation



### Introduction:

**Youth Leadership Development Foundation (YLDF)** is a non-governmental non-profit organization, located in Sana'a capital city of Yemen. YLDF was founded to support youth in voicing their opinions and needs, and participating in Yemen's development, especially underprivileged and female youth. Youth represents a wide base in the demographic pyramid of Yemen, yet they play a small role in decision making processes and have a minor contribution to the economy.

Under the umbrella of YLDF, both **Girls World Communication Center (GWCC)** and **Youth Economic Development Center (YEDC)** operate to serve Yemeni youth in Sana'a and other governorates.

**GWCC**, predecessor of YLDF, was established in 1998 as the first language Center in Yemen catering exclusively to girls. In 2001, it was registered officially with the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education. The center is the first institute in Yemen specialized in girls' capacity building. Currently it also offers different programs that enhance male and female youth participation in community development as well as supports youth NGOs and initiatives to play active development roles. In 2005, the Center was incorporated into the Youth Leadership Development Foundation.

**YEDC**, previously called Youth Economic Development Initiative funded by MEPI, as launched in 2005 as a training program. YLDF decided to invest in the successes of the program and expand its activities through establishing Youth Economic Development Center in 2006 with support from MEPI and Canadian Development Program.

The center mainly serves Yemeni young males and females to become economically secure and socially established and thus able to participate in all domains of economic life in which merit and attitude transcend social status and gender.

### YLDF Vision, Mission and Values

Our vision is a Yemen in which skilled, well qualified and active young women and men play leadership roles in all domains of society and enable Yemenis to contribute to a better world.

Our mission is “to increase male and female youth participation in development of their communities through high standards of quality education and participatory and action oriented training and youth NGOs and initiatives capacity building overall Yemeni governorates in response to development and labor market needs”.

YLDF works in light of the following values:

- Quality Assurance
- Non- Discrimination
- Gender Equity
- Respect of Human Rights
- Fostering Creativity
- Participation
- Continuous Improvement
- Volunteerism
- Sustainability

### **YLDF Strategy for the years 2011-2015**

YLDF is currently working under certain planned strategic goals and activities that were developed by end of 2010 within a framework of 5 year strategic plan for the years 2011-2012. That is being evaluated on yearly base and subject for mid-term review and final evaluation.

### ***YLDF Strategy Rationale***

YLDF program strategy is based on the assessment findings on youth status which all highlight need for increased social status of youth as a result of community service, and development of link young people to economic opportunities and help young people find a sense of purpose, through active participation in social dynamics.

The hypothesis behind the design of strategy interventions is that youth are capable of forming positive social contribution and overcoming generational and community divisions through a combination of leadership training, economic empowerment and active participation in local development.

YLDF strategy responds to the clear need of youth from all Yemeni governorates to be heard and to listen to each other and recognizes that the drivers of instability could be tackled through economic

empowerment and increased role of youth as leaders and decision makers in the process of their local community development.

YLDF continues will continue its support to leadership programs targeting youth in the educational system. Therefore YLDF will launch its support to students in schools as well as key actors in the education sector towards creating leaderships in schools.

The strategy recognizes the current gender gap and creates opportunities for more females to engage in the strategic activities of the coming 5 years through provision of female-friendly environment and culturally-sensitive approaches.

The strategy also takes into consideration the emerging needs of youth to be part of global social media and their interest in advancement of technology. The strategy promotes the use of creative means to increase youth participation in local development including using art as a voice for youth.

The strategy will invest in networks of youth organizations, donor coordination, and local governance support to create a facilitating environment for youth to actively play a role in their communities.

YLDF program strategy is based on the assessment findings on youth status which all highlight need for increased social status of youth as a result of community service, and development of link young people to economic opportunities and help young people find a sense of purpose, through active participation in social dynamics.

The hypothesis behind the design of strategy interventions is that youth are capable of forming positive social contribution and overcoming generational and community divisions through a combination of leadership training, economic empowerment and active participation in local development.

YLDF strategy responds to the clear need of youth from all Yemeni governorates to be heard and to listen to each other and recognizes that the drivers of instability could be tackled through economic empowerment and increased role of youth as leaders and decision makers in the process of their local community development.

YLDF continues will continue its support to leadership programs targeting youth in the educational system. Therefore YLDF will launch its support to students in schools as well as key actors in the education sector towards creating leaderships in schools.

The strategy recognizes the current gender gap and creates opportunities for more females to engage in the strategic activities of the coming 5 years through provision of female-friendly environment and culturally-sensitive approaches.

The strategy also takes into consideration the emerging needs of youth to be part of global social

media and their interest in advancement of technology. The strategy promotes the use of creative means to increase youth participation in local development including using art as a voice for youth.

The strategy will invest in networks of youth organizations, donor coordination, and local governance support to create a facilitating environment for youth to actively play a role in their communities.



### *YLDF Strategic Objectives*

YLDF 2011-2015 strategy aims to achieve the following strategic objectives:

1. Increase levels of leadership and life skills of school female and male students in grades 7-11
2. Enhance academic counseling services and increase level of readiness of high school graduates to enroll in universities.
3. Increase opportunities for female and male youth to enter the labor market
4. Increase levels of community participation of female and male university graduates
5. Increase efficiency of youth NGOs and Initiatives to engage in their local community development

### *Strategic Approaches:*

To meet the above strategic objectives, YLDF uses the following programmatic approaches to implement its strategic activities:

1. Capacity Building: This approach was selected given the long experience of YLDF in the field. Capacity building takes the form of in-class trainings, on-job training, and
2. Advocacy: This approach is limited to Strategic objective one, and takes the form of advocacy at both policy and community levels. This approach is expected to include advocacy workshops, meetings, development of advocacy materials, and advocacy campaigning at community level

3. Awareness Raising: This approach is limited to Strategic Objective four and is limited to community based awareness on youth participation on local development.
4. Technical Support: This approach is used when working with youth groups, youth initiatives or youth NGOs. It will take the form of mentoring, coaching or provision of technical expertise for specific purposes.
5. Research: This approach is used mainly to implement strategic activities of Strategic objective three to study the Labor market needs. However this approach may also be used under other strategic objectives when necessary.
6. Logistic and Financial Support: This approach includes provision of financial support through *small grants* provided for youth individuals and NGOs. Logistic support includes provision of *incubation* services.
7. Promotion of Art and Technology: YLDF focuses on promoting using art and promoting use of technology advancement in the implementation of its strategic activities.



### ***YLDF Partnership:***

To implement its strategic activities, YLDF seeks partnership with local NGOs working in its strategic priority intervention areas. YLDF works with existing local partner NGOs in governorates already covered by YLDF programming since YLDF has no decentralized presence in governorates. It also seeks local NGO partnerships localized in new governorates. YLDF benefits from its membership in national and local networks, alliances and forums for technical support and co-implementation of activities.

### ***Sustainability:***

YLDF takes into consideration that all its projects should have an element of sustainability to its activities. This is achieved by the paid-for training and consultation programs in addition to different services that are offered to the general public. This sector of YLDF generates income that can cover some of the running costs of YLDF, and parts of the staff salaries.

From the early stages of program development, follow up phases of training and education activities are planned for so that skills and knowledge acquired by youth are put into practice.

There is great reliance on training of trainers' activities that ensures a pool of young trainers is created and utilized in YLDF programs. In addition, volunteerism is highly encouraged in YLDF and different trainings are provided to youth to increase their sense of responsibility and ownership of program targeting their fellow young persons.

### ***YLDF Special Pilots:***

- Two well-established center function under the umbrella of YLDF to serve YLD vision and mission “Girls World Communication Center” and “Youth Economic Development Center”
- Established volunteers system: that promote for importance of volunteerism for both NGOs and youth
- Established Incubation Offices for SMEs and youth initiatives
- Based in Sana’a but target the different Yemeni governorates through working within local partnership with different local CSOs
- Established Project Quality and M&E system is to improve project performance and enable more projects to deliver high quality results on time and within budget that is brief shared with CSOs
- Work under values and ethics that are reflected in programs designs, target, and implementation including but not limited to, democracy, gender consideration, learn by doing

### ***Current Programs:***

- **Young leadership Program**
- **Human Rights Program**
- **Khadija Program**
- **Young Entrepreneurs in Development**
- **Camera As Voice: Citizenship**
- **MEPI Allumni Local Chapter**
- **Monitoring & Reporting of Child Rights Violations in Yemen**
- **WASL-Adolescent Conference**
- **Foundation of Peace**
- **Youth Political Leadership Program**
- **Leaders Speak English**

### **Current Partners:**

- **MEPI**
- **FFF**
- **US Embassy**
- **UNFPA**
- **UNICEF**
- **CARE**
- **Silatech Foundation**
- **CIPE**
- **OXFAM Novib**
- **Equitas**
- **YLNG Company**