

FHI 360: A global leader in youth development

With 1.5 billion people ages 12–24, today’s youth population is the largest in history. We believe these young people are catalysts for positive, sustainable change. For five decades, our experts have been working to equip youth in the United States and around the world with the skills, opportunities and services they need to reach their full potential, helping them contribute to the well-being of their families, their communities, their countries — and their future.



Our approach

Our youth development work spans multiple sectors: education, health, civil society, along with economic and workforce development. We intentionally engage local implementing partners, policymakers, youth themselves, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders. These collaborations help ensure that we effectively bridge the gap between governments’ intentions and realities on the ground. Our approaches are flexible and context-driven, using a broad set of tools that can be adapted for diverse settings and needs.

Our work

Education

FHI 360 focuses on expanding access to quality education, along with improving teaching and learning. We involve parents in schools, create more opportunities for girls and young women, support children with disabilities and integrate technology into education. To ensure that youth have the problem-solving, critical thinking and communication skills they need, we strengthen access to a relevant, high-quality post-primary education. In addition, we help youth who have dropped out of school get a “second chance” to complete their education and gain critical life skills.

Health

Sexual and reproductive health is a vital component of our youth development work. FHI 360 identifies key research issues and shares the latest information on youth sexual and reproductive health with governments and communities. We develop tools, curricula and innovative solutions that are tailored to a country’s specific needs and cultural sensitivities. FHI 360 also collaborates with ministries of health and education and with teachers to strengthen national sex education programs.

One-quarter of all people living with HIV are younger than 25. We address the needs of young people who are most at risk of contracting HIV or are living with HIV. We help integrate HIV prevention and treatment into family planning and other reproductive health services. Our materials strengthen youth peer education programs and equip adults to lead information and support groups for HIV-positive adolescents.

About FHI 360: FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff includes experts in health, education, nutrition, environment, economic development, civil society, gender equality, youth, research, technology, communication and social marketing — creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 60 countries and all U.S. states and territories.



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Economic and workforce development

Global youth unemployment is estimated at more than 40 percent. FHI 360's income generation and livelihoods development programs help youth build a more prosperous future. We foster partnerships with businesses, schools and communities to equip youth with the real-world skills they need to succeed.

Civil society

Encouraging youth to participate in society can lead to stronger communities. Our youth-focused civic participation initiatives give young people a voice in their communities, building self-esteem and essential skills such as decision-making, conflict management, teamwork and the ability to work in diverse environments.

Our impact

Community Youth Mapping, an innovative methodology designed by experts at FHI 360, mobilizes young people to canvass their neighborhoods to find resources and opportunities in their own communities. In Egypt, young people focused on school-to-work opportunities such as internships, job-shadowing, apprenticeships and part-time employment. In the United States, youth in San Francisco identified organizations that offered paid internships for high school students. This initiative uncovered data about the area's fastest-growing industries, their needs and their expectations of employees. This information allowed career academies within the school system to better prepare students for college and work.

FHI 360 provides technical leadership for USAID's **Interagency Youth Working Group** (IYWG), a network of nongovernmental agencies, donors and other partners. IYWG works to improve reproductive health and prevent HIV/AIDS among young people ages 10–24 in developing countries. FHI 360 shares new information on youth research and programs and promotes best practices among youth programs globally. In Tanzania, UJANA (Swahili for "youthfulness") works with influential adults and community members to help youth develop skills to help reduce the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. Youth are counseled to abstain from or delay sex, remain faithful to one partner if engaged in a relationship, reduce their number of sex partners or use condoms if appropriate. UJANA focuses particularly on gender relations.

Bridge to Employment introduces at-risk students to a broad array of careers in health care and provides them with hands-on experience. The project brings real world learning to the classroom, showing students that education can be engaging and relevant. Experts at FHI 360 have fostered long-term partnerships among businesses, educators, young people, community groups and parents that form the heart of this global program.

Through **Programa Para o Futuro** in Recife, Brazil, FHI 360 experts helped provide computer training to underserved youth who face widespread racial and class-based discrimination. Through its "eMentoring" methodology, FHI 360 experts used e-mail and instant messaging to connect young people to professionals who taught them work-place skills and gave them career counseling. By building relationships through electronic communication the program helped youth overcome social barriers to their progress.