

The Development Alternative

UK Aid Connect Programme Summary

Project title: **Civil Society Unleashed: A Model for Youth & Community Driven Change**

Thematic Area: **Building Civil Society Effectiveness**

Consortium lead: **Restless Development**

Consortium Partners:

Accountable Now, DOT Lebanon, Integrity Action, INTRAC, War Child and Y Care International

Countries:

The programme models will be tested **Uganda, Madagascar, Lebanon and Iraq** with the potential to upscale to additional countries in the regions at the end of Phase 1

Budget: **£7.8 million**

Start date: **August 2019**

End date: **October 2022**

Timings:

- Phase 1: 18 months. Aug 2019 - Jan 2021
- Phase 2: 18 months. Feb 2021 - Jul 2022
- Close out: 3 months. Aug - Oct 2022

The Problem

Nine out of 10 young people live in developing countries. They are often closest to the issues that development is trying to address and have the ability to lead change, but the international development sector is missing out on their potential.

We need new approaches to development to make sure young people can genuinely define the problems they and their communities face and, crucially, lead the solutions to those problems.

We need more effective engagement from civil society, to make sure young people and youth-focused civil society organisations are better able to: respond, lead change, take up opportunities, make the case for why youth- and community-led change works, and do this at massive scale.

Individual young people and youth civil society organisations are being held back by limited resourcing, development approaches that are not designed around their insights and needs, historically oppressive power structures, and not being taken seriously by decision makers and funders.

Purpose

The Development Alternative is a new consortium that is co-designing alternative ways to do development that ensure young people, youth civil society organisations and communities are truly able to define and lead development programmes.

By supporting governments, development partners and the private sector to engage better with youth civil society organisations and with young people, we will unleash the power and agency of the peak youth generation, mobilising change at scale across the world's largest ever youth generation.

We will maintain a co-creation approach throughout the programme and designate key resources to learning and dynamic accountability approaches – to improve our models based on what young people tell us works, and to share with others for further uptake.

How will we achieve this?

A Model for Change: A youth-led, tech-enabled, community engagement approach. Young volunteers will engage young people and community members to:

- Identify problems and solutions in existing livelihoods programming
- Identify solutions to unmet needs and priorities
- Demonstrate the effectiveness of youth-led, community-driven approaches

Youth Civil Society Organisations - Thriving not just Surviving: Grounded in youth-led research, our plan is to co-create, test, and adapt a support package and methodology for youth civil society organisations to transform their impact, connections, business models, accountability and resourcing. Through this we will find a replicable way of unleashing the collective power of youth civil society.



A Youth Collective: 100 development actors and 200 youth civil society groups will use evidence, research and proven models to increase the effectiveness of their work and improve their partnerships.

Impact

The Development Alternative wants to see a more effective civil society with the agency, power and accountability of youth and communities at its heart. We aim to deliver the following outcomes:

- Young people realise their agency to hold development actors to account and offer solutions
- Youth civil society is transformed to increase its impact, scale and credibility
- Development actors improve how they work with young people, communities, and civil society

Activities

What will we do?

- **Test our youth-led model in the area of living / livelihoods in eight countries**, with leadership from 480 young volunteers, supported by a youth leadership curriculum, staff teams, and connected to each other and to 150,000 community members
- **Build solutions and models to work better with 200 youth-led and youth-focused civil society organisations** across the world, driven by what those organisations tell us they need
- **Generate research, evidence and learning**, and make this available to all
- **Support 100 youth advocates** to take evidence on living, youth leadership and accountability to national and global decision-makers. Through this, improve the effectiveness and relevance of policy, funding and practice, and positively shift imbalances in decision making
- **Build strategic partnerships with 100 development actors** to promote our model, support meaningful youth engagement and identify opportunities to further scale our models

The programme will be driven, monitored, adapted and led by young people throughout. Structured innovation, learning and adaptation processes, youth leadership development, and shifting power will be at the forefront of our consortium's ways of working.

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