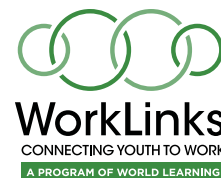


WorkLinks

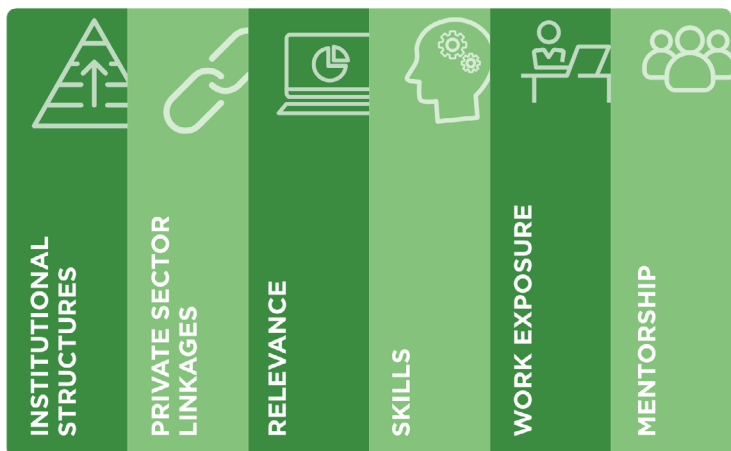
Connecting Youth to Work



WorkLinks is an evidence-based positive youth development (PYD) program of World Learning, helping youth-serving institutions connect youth to work. We adapt and implement this program around the world with different local partners, including university career centers, enterprise incubators, vocational training institutes, youth and community centers, and more.

WorkLinks helps these partners focus on six core pillars: strengthening institutional **structures** to meet youth needs, developing **linkages** with the private sector, ensuring the market **relevance** of curriculum and training, developing and assessing **soft skills and hard skills**, promoting **work exposure** opportunities, and building a **mentorship** ecosystem and enabling environment. World Learning offers several practical tools to help partners implement the WorkLinks approach. Materials are available in English, French, and Arabic, with Spanish also under development.

Pillars of the WorkLinks Approach



WorkLinks Practical Tools

- Career Center Toolkit**
- Enterprise Incubator Toolkit**
- Soft Skills & Employability Curriculum**
Up to 70 hours of experiential learning
- Online Career Mentorship Model**
Up to 40 hours of activities over 8 modules
- WorkLinks Skills & Values Assessment (WLSVA)**

WorkLinks and Positive Youth Development

WorkLinks is based on the **Positive Youth Development (PYD)** approach, which helps build youth assets, agency, contributions, and an enabling environment to achieve a vision of healthy, productive, and engaged youth.¹

We build youth **assets** through experiential learning programs focusing on intrapersonal skills, social skills, communication, and entrepreneurship and job search skills. We use universal design for learning (UDL principles) to ensure all are included, and we assess skills using our WorkLinks Skills and Values (WLSVA) tool.

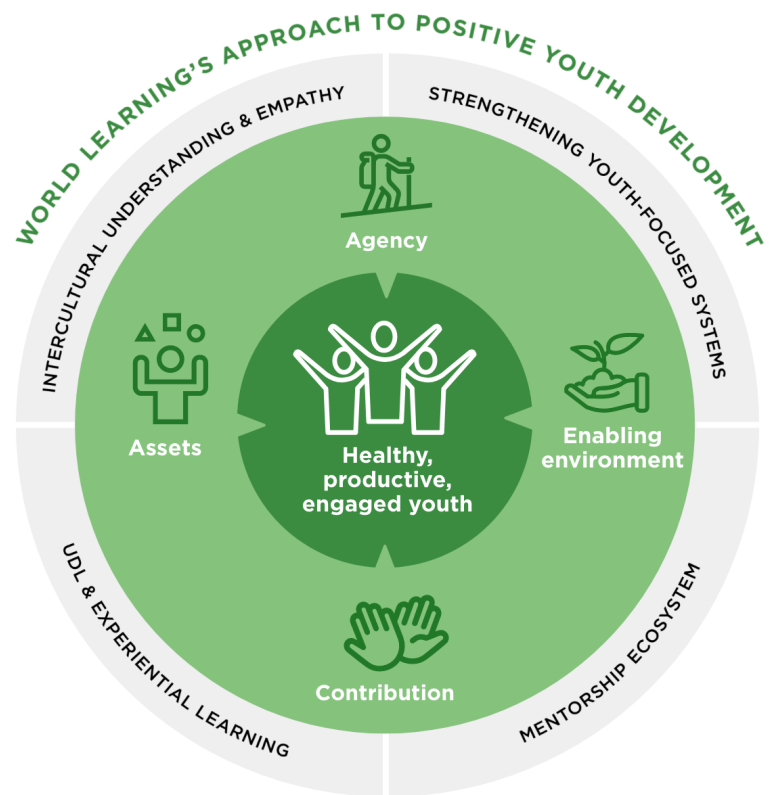
We place youth **agency** at the center of our work, ensuring youth have the skills and confidence to make decisions about their own lives and set their own goals. Youth-led activities and opportunities shape all programming, with an emphasis on interactions with decision-makers. To broaden youth's vision and forge collaborations among diverse youth, we intentionally build intercultural understanding and empathy and we apply the TAAP toolkit to empower people who have historically been marginalized.

Youth **contributions** are valued and elevated as participants use their skills and engage with public and private sector leaders to make meaningful impact in their communities and through their work. To further spread program impact through youth contributions, we promote a broader culture of peer mentoring.

Finally, WorkLinks builds an **enabling environment** for PYD by creating safe spaces that match youth priorities and needs, and by involving a growing circle of adults in supporting youth to achieve their career and life goals, with the goal of changing permanent systems and structures.

Ultimately, the WorkLinks vision is a future in which all youth and adults—including the marginalized—support each other to find or create decent work.

¹ USAID Youth Power Learning, 2017. [Positive Youth Development Measurement Toolkit](#).



WorkLinks in Motion



25
institutions



55,900+
direct
beneficiaries



5
countries