From Protest to Policy:
Social Movements, and the Opportunity for Civil Society to Engage Youth in Politics

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Fireside Chat

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Does the evidence however show that social movements lead to increased youth participation in politics?

What are the barriers young people face in their participation in movements that may be even more of an issue in politics and policy?
Have young people you engaged with as part of protest or grassroots movements, gone on to engage in policy and politics?

Even if youth are interested in politics, what are the barriers they face in Pakistan. Specifically around running for office, engaging in policy, reform or other decision-making processes?
What can USAID and its partners do to help civil society ally with and support youth participation in politics?
Questions
Mission Spark Talks
Youth, Social Movements & Politics in DRC
From Protest:

Youth movement protest against illegal nomination of a former executive secretary of the EMB as a new president of the EMB.
Youth gather to discuss the draft EMB law and provide their inputs.
Recommendations:

- Supporting youth, active in movements, by connecting them with peers and allies in civil society.

- Convening opportunities for youth to engage with government stakeholders and policymakers to help be a part of reform processes.

- Integrating youth participation in all aspects of USAID programming, from design to evaluation, securing their role as current and future partners.
FROM PROTEST: In November 2013, protests erupted after President Yanukovych refused to sign a political association and free trade agreement with the European Union choosing closer ties with Russia instead.

Tired of corruption, young Ukrainian students began protesting in the city center where after a few nights, they were savagely beaten by the police special forces on Nov 30, 2013.
TO REVOLUTION: By February 2014, violent events involving protesters, riot police, and unknown shooters in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv culminated in the ousting of elected president Yanukovych, and the overthrow of the Ukrainian government.
TO POLICY: New young politicians are influencing national policies and developed the new Law on Youth, which provides for a wide range of instruments for the youth participation in decision-making and shaping of the state youth policy.
“After the revolution, I went to war and somehow missed all this rise of activism. Before the revolution, the youth in Kharkiv was very inert and it was almost impossible to motivate them to do anything. Although now, I can clearly see these drastic changes in our city. That’s why I started working in the civic sector and joined UNITY. Now, it’s time for youth it’s our time”

- Dmytro
Recommendations:

- Show youth that they have a future in Ukraine [at home] through economic opportunities, civic engagement, and overall agency.
- Listen to them where they are, not where you want them to be.
- Bridge generational divides, especially when parents/caregivers are influencing decision making.
Questions
Global Leadership and Education for Advancing Development (Global LEAD) is USAID’s Agency-wide initiative to partner with young people and meet development objectives through enhanced education, civic engagement, and leadership development opportunities.
A CONTINUUM OF SUPPORTING & ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE
Across All Sectors and Missions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CIVIC EDUCATION</th>
<th>CIVIC ENGAGEMENT</th>
<th>LEADERSHIP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activities that improve soft skills, civic skills, sense of agency, and civic mindset, such as:</td>
<td>Activities that increase youth participation in civic activities, such as:</td>
<td>Activities that catalyze youth to take leadership roles in civic spaces, such as:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Civics curriculum</td>
<td>• Service learning, volunteerism</td>
<td>• Leadership training</td>
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<td>• Media literacy training</td>
<td>• Community mapping, participatory research</td>
<td>• Capacity building of youth-led orgs</td>
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<td>• Debate programs</td>
<td>• Voter registration, youth wings of political parties</td>
<td>• Membership in advisory bodies</td>
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<td>• Teacher training on participatory classroom management</td>
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<td>• Public speaking</td>
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Global LEAD Initiative

Building Back Better: a continuum of youth engagement

COVID
- Youth engagement on COVID prevention and response
- Possible Big 6 Global Youth Mobilization

Democracy
- SYNAPSE Pilots
- Advancing civic education and engagement

Education
- Higher Education scholarships and Exchanges

Climate
- Youth Ambassadors for Climate Change
- Oceans Plastics Initiative

Digital
- YouthMappers
- Intl. Digital Youth Council
- Youth Digital Leaders with Youth Excel

Human Capital
(EDUCATION/JOBS/HEALTH)
- Innovations in Education, Workforce Development, Health (DREAMS Ambassadors)
Thank You For Attending!

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