



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



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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.



TO POLICY:

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.**

Youth, Social Movements & Politics in Ukraine




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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.

A night scene of a protest in Kyiv, 2014. A large fire burns in the background, illuminating the scene. In the foreground, several people are visible, some holding flags. A Ukrainian tricolor flag is prominent in the upper center. The overall atmosphere is one of chaos and conflict.

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.

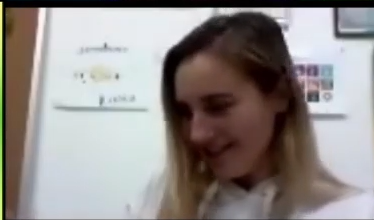




Serhiy Sarzhevsky



“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



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SUPPORTING ONE MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE AS PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT



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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

CIVIC EDUCATION

Activities that improve soft skills, civic skills, sense of agency, and civic mindset, such as:

- Civics curriculum
- Media literacy training
- Debate programs
- Teacher training on participatory classroom management

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Activities that increase youth participation in civic activities, such as:

- Service learning, volunteerism
- Community mapping, participatory research
- Voter registration, youth wings of political parties

LEADERSHIP

Activities that catalyze youth to take leadership roles in civic spaces, such as:

- Leadership training
- Capacity building of youth-led orgs
- Membership in advisory bodies
- Public speaking

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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