

YOUTH EXCEL - Youth Represent DRC

May 2021 – August 2022

In the Kinshasa and North Kivu counties of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), youth-led and youth-serving organizations will convene to address a central learning question: **How might we strengthen the inclusion of under-represented and marginalized youth in education and workforce development programs?**

PROBLEM:

As the second-largest country in Africa, plagued by instability, conflict, limited infrastructure, and low levels of educational access and outcomes, the DRC is home to a young, diverse population. Vulnerable youth – including ethnic minorities and indigenous populations, young women, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQI+ youth – face compounded forms of exclusion from education and workforce programming and are more likely than their peers not to access, advance, or complete education nor to access dignified work.



ABOUT YOUTH REPRESENT DRC:

From May 2021 – August 2022, Youth Excel will engage diverse young Congolese leaders in North Kivu and Kinshasa to pilot-test innovative interventions, generate actionable information and recommendations, and prepare knowledge products to mobilize the Congolese education and workforce sectors. Led by Search for Common Ground/DRC, Youth Excel will:

- Identify and engage 6-8 youth-led and youth-serving organizations and groups in each county; strengthen their capacity in practical implementation research¹ skills and in other areas;
- Conduct youth-led and youth-informed rapid intersectional gender analysis, protection assessment, conflict analysis and stakeholder mapping;
- Identify barriers and opportunities for marginalized and vulnerable youth in education and workforce programming;
- Support youth-led/youth-serving organizations through training, mentoring, and micro-grants to pilot-test innovative solutions to address the barriers and leverage the opportunities that they identify; and
- Create and share actionable knowledge products for youth and the development community, including youth personas, summaries of the gender, protection, and conflict assessments, data summaries, and an assessment report.

Youth Excel will engage relevant local development stakeholders and allies with youth organizations to share knowledge, data, and perspectives and strengthen its recommendations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Anselme Wimye, Head of Office, Search for Common Ground/DRC, awimye@sfcg.org

Andrew Clark, Regional program manager, Search for Common Ground/DRC, aclarck@sfcg.org

¹ Youth Excel has defined **implementation research** in a youth-accessible way as follows: Implementation research explores how and why programs work under real-world conditions; it is participatory, iterative, and inclusive; and it helps organizations gather data, take what they learn, and turn it into what they do.