



Final Progress Report

\$2,200,000.00 granted
United Nations Development Programme
G-INTL-202310106

Asia Pacific Youth Co:Lab Initiative

Report Due At: 10/7/2024

Status Complete

YOUR PROGRAM

The information below is from your application and is for your reference only.

Investment Type:

Direct Service

Project Title:

Asia Pacific Youth Co:Lab Initiative

Program Summary:

Co-created in 2017 by UNDP and the Citi Foundation, Youth Co:Lab aims to invest in and empower youth to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship. Youth Co:Lab works at three levels: directly empowering young aspiring and inspiring entrepreneurs and leaders, building the capacities of the ecosystem partners to better support youth entrepreneurship, and working with governments to strengthen the enabling environment for youth entrepreneurship. Youth social innovation and entrepreneurship activities organized or supported by Youth Co:Lab have benefitted over 15,000 young people in 28 countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region and created or improved over 1,700 youth-led social innovation or entrepreneurship teams to date. The project has established a broad network of ecosystem stakeholders, developed solutions to build capacities of entrepreneurship support organizations and produced action-oriented knowledge products to contribute to systems level change. In our ambition to ensure that no one is left behind, we constantly seek solutions to promote inclusive social and economic progress, and improve the lives of people through youth social innovation and entrepreneurship; six years on since the inception of the project, 'Leaving No One Behind' and promoting inclusive social entrepreneurship are the core project objectives.

Project Start Date:

9/8/2023

This is the amount awarded for this program (in dollars): \$2,200,000.00

Have all grant funds been spent? Yes

If all grant funds have not been spent, **do not continue filling out this report.** Instead, contact the Foundation immediately to request a grant modification. For U.S. grants, contact foundationsupport@citi.com. For International grants, contact internationalgrantsupport@citi.com.

*** REQUIRED DOCUMENT: PROGRAM EXPENDITURE REPORT**

You are required to submit a final report of your program's expenditures with this report. You can download the template, fill it out, and upload it at the bottom of this report. [Click here to download REQUIRED template.](#)

When completing the expenditure report, refer to your approved program budget, which you can download from your application by navigating to the main menu on the left-hand side, selecting 'Approved,' and clicking on the relevant application.

YOUR PARTICIPANTS

For reference, this is the number of individuals that you planned on serving directly during the grant period: 25000

How many individuals (including microentrepreneurs or small business owners) did you work with by the end of the grant period? 28220

For reference, this is the number of organizations that you planned on serving directly during the grant period:

How many organizations did you work with by the end of the grant period? 248

Summarize your program activities completed through this grant. If not all program activities were completed as outlined in your application, please tell us why. :

Youth Co:Lab continued its holistic approach using three different streams—downstream (directly targeting youth), midstream (ecosystem enablers or Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESOs)), and upstream (institutional and policy) ultimately to support young entrepreneurs in the Asia-Pacific Region. Overall, Youth Co:Lab activities engaged 28,220 individuals, were implemented in 18 countries and territories, and worked with 248 ecosystem enablers (organizations and institutions) consisting of government partners, private sector, civil society or voluntary organizations, and academia. This cycle's thematic focus was on inclusive entrepreneurship, incorporating thematic areas such as climate action, the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) agenda, food security, circular economy, green jobs, waste management, and clean air, to name a few. As in previous years, Youth Co:Lab continued its outreach through

country offices and partnerships, as well as organizing activities at the regional level. As a culmination, the Youth Co:Lab Summit was held at the Asian Development Bank Headquarters in Manila, Philippines which was attended by 290 in person participants with 5,000 live stream views of the opening.

Regional Springboard Pre-Accelerator Programme and Inclusive Youth Entrepreneurship
The Springboard Programme is an array of startup support interventions providing ongoing support for young SDG innovators and partners, aiming to scale youth-led social enterprises to being financially sustainable to impact the livelihoods of themselves and their communities. At the downstream level, the Springboard PLUS Pre-Accelerator Programme, which ran from Feb to Jun 2024, focused on climate, gender, and the Leave No One Behind agenda, through a peer-to-peer learning approach spanning over 20 weeks. Eight modules on investment readiness complemented by 12 modules covering SDG thematic areas were delivered to address crucial aspects for early-stage entrepreneurs.

Springboard Elevate Programme

A lesson learned by Youth Co:Lab on reaching and supporting young entrepreneurs left furthest behind is that common approach of accelerating growth of early-stage startups which involves providing business skills training, mentorship, market access and financial capital, requires more tailored interventions to support young social entrepreneurs from under-represented communities. By embedding LNOB at the heart, the Springboard Elevate Programme creates a fertile ground where founders from diverse backgrounds can flourish, driving innovation and fostering a rich, inclusive entrepreneurial community. The programme builds on ramps to social, human and financial capital for young social entrepreneurs, which serves as the building blocks of their entrepreneurial success. This cycle onboarded 42 new fellows and 20 alumni founders. The activities ran from 7 September – 5 December 2023.

Springboard Amplifier Programme

The Springboard Amplifier Programme is a knowledge collaboration platform for national Youth Co:Lab partners, especially entrepreneurship support organisations (ESOs), to enhance the collective support services for young social entrepreneurs with a focus on empowering the most marginalized groups. This year, 118 ESOs benefited from both national (90) and regional (28) activities.

Accessible Learning Management System (LMS)

A plugin for the translation of the LMS has been developed and tested, pending implementation once all risks have been accounted for, so as not to disrupt useability of the platform.

National programme

Over 9,000 young people were supported through the Youth Co:Lab national programmes along with over 16,200 from Aspiring Entrepreneurs Program consisting of train-the-trainer capacity building workshops which included topics on entrepreneurship, SDGs, green jobs, digital branding and employability, storytelling, leadership, wellbeing, business integrity, and other digital upskilling modules.

Research and policy

The study on Inclusive Youth Entrepreneurship will be launched in October 2024 and the study on Social Entrepreneurship on Human Mobility in Urban Settings among Young People in South and Southeast Asia, as well as the State of Youth Entrepreneurship Ecosystem (ecosystem diagnostics study) in Pakistan were launched in October 2023 and April 2024, respectively. Finally, the Toolkit on Behavioural Insights to support women entrepreneurs is set to be published in Q4 2024.

Communications and outreach

Youth Co:Lab implemented several communications campaigns to promote its initiatives including webinars, features focused on international days, and events to promote youth-led innovations and social entrepreneurship. This included a month-long campaign in December focused on the theme of 'Leaving No One Behind'. Campaigns throughout the year highlighted the inspiring actions of young social entrepreneurs and their impact, startup spotlights, Youth Co:Lab's programmatic work, including Springboard PLUS, Springboard Amplifier, Springboard Elevate, International Women's Day, International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), and Indigenous People's Day. Youth Co:Lab Summit 2024, among the other key campaigns during the year, focused on promoting inclusive Youth Entrepreneurship.

YOUR RESULTS

When answering the questions below, refer directly and with specificity to the anticipated results you outlined in your application. You can access your full application by navigating to the main menu on the left-hand side, selecting 'Approved,' and clicking on the relevant application.

For reference, this program's results statement was:

The overarching objective of the activities implemented during this Youth Co:Lab grant cycle is that young social entrepreneurs, entrepreneurship support organizations and key ecosystem stakeholders, particularly at the national level, have strengthened capacities to implement strategies that support the evolution of inclusive youth social entrepreneurship ecosystems. - 25,000 young people gain entrepreneurial skills. - 500 youth-led social enterprises/innovation teams are equipped with tools and resources to implement diversity, equity and inclusion strategies as a part of their business solutions through national and regional youth social entrepreneurship and innovation activities. - 30 National Ecosystem Support Organizations have enhanced skills, capacities and enabling networks and connections to support young aspiring and existing entrepreneurs from underserved communities in their national contexts, and to implement DEI strategies. - A knowledge product on Inclusive Youth Entrepreneurship provides evidence and data to facilitate dialogues among policy makers and other key stakeholders. - Youth Co:Lab Summit is conducted to provide a platform for knowledge exchange on Inclusive Youth Entrepreneurship. - Localization of LMS by translating resources to 10 languages, and improving access by following the Accessibility Guidelines for UN Websites.

Describe the result(s) achieved through this grant.

National Springboard Programme

One of the core strategies of Youth Co:Lab across all its streams of work is its national programmes to ensure that interventions are localized and contextual. This cycle, 9,078 young

people were served through national youth social innovation and entrepreneurship activities across 18 countries and territories. Of this number, representation of women and men were equal at 45% each. A total of 632 youth-led enterprises at varying stages were supported. Each national programme has its own design and different types of support, including mentorship and access to financing. On average, young entrepreneurs received 23 and 19 hours of support through training and mentorship, respectively.

Aspiring Entrepreneurs Programme

The Aspiring Entrepreneurs Programme uses a train-the-trainers methodology to facilitate learning on the SDGs and other skills training. This cycle, a total of 16,319 aspiring entrepreneurs were reported. Based on feedback data, it is estimated that one participant attends 1.48 workshops on average. The train-the-trainers workshops filled 18,552 seats accounting to 12,535 individuals, and a total of 3,784 signed up to online courses relevant to digital upskilling. A total of 354 workshops were conducted in nine countries and territories, covering the following top five topics: SDGs (33.64%), leadership (15.75%), entrepreneurship (15.16%), storytelling (10.19%), Green Jobs (8.94%). Over 1,500 people signed up to become Aspiring Entrepreneurs Programme volunteers.

Regional Springboard Programme

The Springboard Elevate Programme, a platform designed specifically for inclusive entrepreneurship, onboarded 42 new fellows and 20 alumni founders in this cycle's cohort. Out of which, 52% are first-time founders. These founders identified themselves as belong to the following sectors: female (31.3%), rural areas (25.9%), low-income background per country definition (17%), indigenous (8%), living with disability (4.5%), living in conflict-affected areas (4.5%), LGBTI+ (3.6%). Their solutions benefit rural populations, women, indigenous communities, persons with disabilities, people on the move, LGBTI persons, and those impacted by violent extremism and conflict. The programme ran for three months with 12 sessions covering leadership and storytelling, diversity, equity and inclusion, fundraising, and market access. An orientation and graduation were also held. With the average session rating being 9.35 out of 10, the community learning series provided peer to peer learning opportunities where Springboard Alumni, fellow and partners shared their lessons learned from addressing the most frequent challenges faced by early-stage SDG Solutions.

On the other hand, the Springboard PLUS was designed to support early-stage entrepreneurs with businesses contributing to the SDGs with a targeted focus on their increased ability to raise capital and capacity to navigate early product development and evaluation of traction. Participants were able to perfect their pitches enhance their investor readiness, develop and enhance their business goals and strategies, and improve other entrepreneurial skills such as consistency and empathy. As a result, seven graduates of Springboard PLUS have been accepted into venture capital Accelerating Asia's flagship pre-series A accelerator programme. These startups have raised over USD 7 million since joining Accelerating Asia's programme at a combined valuation of about USD 36 million. They have also increased their revenue and user base. These solutions range from accessible urgent care centers (AmarLab) to enhanced mobility through tech (Shuttle). Overall, 253 young social entrepreneurs and innovators have enrolled for the 2024 Youth Co:Lab Springboard Programme. As we continue to refine our Springboard programme for the 6th year with investment and knowledge partners, we are thrilled to have achieved a world class Net Promoter Score of 86, with over 88% of our responses in the 9-10, highly in favor of recommending this program to their friends. Respondents have the option of anonymity in their feedback forms.

The Springboard HUB, a one-stop resource platform for young social entrepreneurs to access business know-how, mentorship, business coaching, global opportunities and Youth Co:Lab network, helped facilitate 392 global opportunities through 1,313 hours of dedicated mentorship and support. Last but not the least in section is the mentorship with Citi volunteers which consisted of a six-week journey, 40 Citi mentors and 10 different social enterprises.

Springboard Amplifier Programme

At the midstream level, Springboard Amplifier expanded its reach through national programmes to train ESOs on how to further support young entrepreneurs. As a platform for knowledge collaboration, Amplifier also aims to foster south-south, north-south, and triangle collaborations among Youth Co:Lab's partners. A total of 118 ESOs benefitted from both regional (28) and national (90) Amplifier activities. These ESOs represent 18 countries and territories. At the regional level, 19 one-on-one mentorship sessions were conducted and 27 ESOs deepened their understanding of DEI. At the national level, different strategies were per country. In the Philippines, all 17 regional offices of the Department of Trade and Industry were represented by 48 master trainers who participated in workshops on effective methods and skills for training youth entrepreneurs. In Viet Nam, the approach was through the academe where 70 participants from 20 universities and organizations were engaged. Finally, in Indonesia, the partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Indonesia and Platform Usaha Sosial (PLUS) gathered 50 local ESOs across the country with goal of ensuring longevity and sustainability of the programme.

Research, policy, and strategic intelligence

At the upstream level, Youth Co:Lab continues to contribute to the development of the ecosystem for young entrepreneurs through different studies and policy dialogues. At the Youth Co:Lab Summit, the Strategic Intelligence Hub (SIH) track featured sessions aimed at launching a Map of Best Practices relevant to youth entrepreneurship and facilitating in-depth discussions on the updated toolkit for conducting national ecosystem diagnostics studies. A webinar on Leveraging Social Entrepreneurship for Youth Employment, Skills, and Entrepreneurship was also held in January 2024.

The study on Inclusive Youth Entrepreneurship to be launched in October 2024 is a key milestone for this cycle, further emphasizing and exploring how Youth Co:Lab and the ecosystem as a whole can strengthen support to young entrepreneurs especially those from underrepresented communities. The study on Social Entrepreneurship on Human Mobility in Urban Settings among Young People in South and Southeast Asia as well as the State of Youth Entrepreneurship Ecosystem (ecosystem diagnostics study) in Pakistan were launched in October 2023 and April 2024, respectively. Finally, the toolkit on behavioral insights for women entrepreneurs, entitled Be The Catalyst: Behavioral Strategies to Support Women Entrepreneurs, is set to be published in Q4 2024.

Communications and outreach

Youth Co:Lab social media channels, namely Facebook, LinkedIn, and X has a total online audience of over 270,000 with 523 published posts. For this reporting cycle the social media platforms had 706,427 Impressions, 37,959 engagements, and 65,676 video views, which is

30% more than the previous year. The Youth Co:Lab website had 37,146 site sessions and 23,666 unique visitors, with most as direct searches to the website and google organic reach.

What percentage of the results noted in your application was achieved? Greater than 100%

Explain how this percentage was calculated.

Youth Co:Lab achieved a 113% result based on the target number of individuals (28,220). This figure is based on the national programmes (39.61%), Aspiring Entrepreneurs Programme (57.83%), and regional programme (2.56%). The target number of 500 enterprises was also achieved with a total of 632 (126%) youth-led enterprises or innovation teams supported this cycle. On partnerships, we engaged 248 unique partners from national programmes (50), regional programmes (81), and the Aspiring Entrepreneurs Programme (120).

Example:

80% of our program results were achieved. We achieved 110% workshop participation, as more youth than anticipated attended the job skills, communications and entrepreneurship workshops, 75% of the youth who attended the workshops increased their job-readiness skills, and 60% of them were placed and completed an internship, increasing their work experience. We calculated the overall percentage taking the average of those three percentages.

How did you track and measure these results? :

The planning and monitoring of activities and results are primarily led by country focal points, with guidance from the regional project team. Focal points identify performance indicators which are later reported and evidenced by documentation reports and primary data collection tools such as, but not limited to, participant registration and feedback forms, consultations with different stakeholders, and media and publication monitoring tools. At the regional level, progress and growth of youth-led enterprises are monitored through the Springboard startup support system.

Describe the factors or obstacles that contributed to your results.

In order to scale results, partnerships remain to be a strong factor in ensuring that the programme reaches more young people. Youth Co:Lab relies on its strong network of stakeholders as well as its evolving human capital to deliver results. In Sri Lanka, for example, thousands were reached due to efforts at the up and midstream levels, working directly with the government. Partnerships also fuel not just outreach and other resources but also intelligence resulting to collective action and concrete collaborations. Springboard Amplifier yielded results this cycle in three countries with the potential for reaching more young entrepreneurs at sub-national level in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Viet Nam.

As a multi-country initiative, Youth Co:Lab also benefits from the advent of technology to bridge learners and facilitators through different modalities—webinars, self-paced curriculum, training-of-trainers, and other online communities. Where there is limited access, interventions are designed to reach those who are farthest. In Thailand, innovation challenges were held in five different provinces; each with unique thematic focus and targeting those belonging to underrepresented communities.

On the other hand, challenges arose this cycle primarily attributed to changes in macro-environments, varying political landscapes in different countries, and different degrees of risk tolerance on operations (approvals, procurement, etc.). It is also worth noting that while some activities are designed for this cycle, they are still ongoing as some national programmes complete activities by fourth quarter of the fiscal year. Finally, one of the assumptions of the project is that one young participant and even one ESO may be engaged both at the national and regional levels, and that they are counted separately in consideration of attribution of results vis-à-vis identified performance indicators.

What lessons or best practices has your organization learned through the course of this program?

Throughout the years, Youth Co:Lab has leveraged on its strengths and continues its work where results are achieved. This cycle, the focus was on inclusive youth entrepreneurship. To support mobilization and outreach, the programme continues to rely on the national interventions, partnerships especially with youth-serving organizations, and government for scaling.

One of the priorities identified in the previous cycle was strengthening Youth Co:Lab's data privacy and protection measures as well as improving monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system. As an exercise, both regional and national teams designed annual work plans to align key performance indicators and targets, as well as resources. Several measures, such as adding consent clauses and disclosing data privacy and protection policies, were integrated in some of the data collection tools.

Other common threads across different intervention include deeper dive on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), targeted thematic focus and demographics, one-on-one mentorship (both at downstream and upstream levels), co-development of learning materials, networking and cultural exchanges, need for more market access, digital upskilling, and storytelling.

Finally, at both regional and national levels, Youth Co:Lab's potential to scale now shifts to midstream and upstream levels, working more with ESOs and government in integrating inclusive youth entrepreneurship in both existing and new policies, programmes, and activities.

PROGRAM VISIBILITY

Did you generate visibility for this program and Citi Foundation's support? Yes

Did this program include a publication of any reports and/or research white papers? Yes

If your application stated that a report would be completed because of this program, please provide us with a link to the completed publication in the additional information section below or upload the document.

Additional Information

Is there any additional information that you believe would help us understand your program results?

1. 2024 Youth Co:Lab Summit Report
2. Springboard Amplifier 2024 Report
3. Springboard Elevate 2024 Report
4. Springboard PLUS 2024 Programme Report
5. State of Youth Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in Pakistan
6. Social Entrepreneurship on Human Mobility in Urban Settings Among Young People in South and Southeast Asia

TERMS

By answering yes, I certify that: Yes

- 1) All expenditures have been made in support of the stated purpose of the grant.
- 2) I am authorized to submit this report on behalf of the organization and I have examined the foregoing statements and to the best of my knowledge they are true, correct and complete.
- 3) I have uploaded a final expenditure report to this report.
- 4) If funded through Charities Aid Foundation of America, the organization has complied with all of the terms and conditions of the grant specified in the Grant Agreement signed by the organization and CAF America.
- 5) My organization complied with all the terms stipulated in the grant application.

The information that you provide in this report will be reviewed by the Citi Foundation. Please note that you may be asked to provide additional information.

TO UPLOAD DOCUMENTS TO THIS REPORT:

1. Scroll to the Report Document section at the bottom of your report.
2. Click on the green plus "+" button in the top right corner.
3. Click the "Add files" button to access the file on your computer (or drag the file into the window).
4. Once the document is listed, tag the document with the appropriate label and click the "Start upload" button to attach it to your report. The Status will show complete when it has been successfully attached.

REPORT DOCUMENTS

 Grantee Report Submission_102224.pdf	
Report Additional Attachment Added at 2:40 AM on October 22, 2024	
 Report-BRH-YEP-YCL-Springboard PLUS 2024-20240925.pdf	
Report Additional Attachment Added by Beniam Gebrezghi at 4:24 AM on October 9, 2024	
 Report-BRH-YEP-Citi-Final Expenditure Report 2023-2024-20230924.xlsx	
Program Expenditure Report Added by Beniam Gebrezghi at 7:06 AM on October 7, 2024	
 State of Youth Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in Pakistan.pdf	
Publication Added by Beniam Gebrezghi at 6:59 AM on October 7, 2024	
 Social Entrepreneurship on Human Mobility in Urban Settings Among Young People in South and Southeast Asia.pdf	
Publication Added by Beniam Gebrezghi at 6:59 AM on October 7, 2024	
 Report-BRH-YEP-YCL-Youth CoLab Summit Report 2024-20240823.pdf	
Report Additional Attachment Added by Beniam Gebrezghi at 6:59 AM on October 7, 2024	
 Report-BRH-YEP-YCL-Springboard Elevate-20240327.pdf	
Report Additional Attachment Added by Beniam Gebrezghi at 6:56 AM on October 7, 2024	
 Report-BRH-YEP-YCL-Springboard Amplifier 2024-20241004.pdf	
Report Additional Attachment Added by Beniam Gebrezghi at 6:56 AM on October 7, 2024	