

Our Theory of Change

The Problem

Marginalised young people in emerging market countries lack resources and opportunities; often their voices are not heard; and their agency is inhibited.

Factors such as poverty, discrimination, economic and social exclusion drastically impact their lives and horizons, even more for girls, young women, and LGBTQI+ youth.

Furthermore, **local organisations that work with and for young people** - and have the knowledge and solutions needed to break these cycles of disadvantage - are chronically under-funded and under-connected, hindering their ability to affect change.

Our Pillars of Change

At EPower, we have four key pillars of change to address root causes that limit young people. We invest resources in four key strategies designed to accelerate long-term change.

- Grantmaking
- Organisational Capacity Strengthening
- Cross-sector Strengthening
- Philanthropic Mobilisation

Grant Making

OUTPUT
We make grants to local organisations in emerging market countries, focused on economic wellbeing, inclusive learning and safe, healthy lives for marginalised young people.

Flexible, multi-year support (up to 10 years)

OUTCOMES
Organisations receive long-term, responsive financial support from EPower that enable them to implement locally appropriate, innovative and quality programming for young people.

IMPACT AIM
Young people are better supported by our grantee partners - who have the financial resources, organisational capacity, and flexibility needed to do so.

Organisational Capacity Strengthening

OUTPUT
We foster organisational capacity, skills and sustainability of our grantee partners with tailored support.

Bespoke support for grantee partners etc. programmatic strategy, youth safeguarding, fundraising, piloting and scaling of innovations

OUTCOMES
Capacity support tailored to their organisational needs and contexts increasing their effectiveness and sustainability

IMPACT AIM
Organisations that are operationally sustainable, strategic and robust, and that co-design cutting edge programs with marginalised young people - are best placed to meet young peoples' needs with responsive solutions and offerings.

Cross-Sector Strengthening

OUTPUT
We facilitate and support grantee partners' collaboration to strategise and build alliances - at the local, national, regional and global levels.

Facilitate the sharing of learning and practice; provide resources and platforms for amplifying young people's voices and for building collective impact.

OUTCOMES
Organisations supporting young people are connected, and supported to collaborate within and across geographic ecosystems - and young people's voices are central in key discussions.

IMPACT AIM
Marginalised young people are supported by a connected ecosystem of organisations that collaborate, deliver, and advocate for more effective, systemic solutions.

Centering young people's perspectives and agency in decisions and collaborations results in more effective strategies and approaches.

Philanthropic Mobilisation

OUTPUT
We advocate for the importance of long-term commitments to local organisations working with young people - promoting gender-responsive policies, practices and participatory grantmaking approaches.

We reflect on our own philanthropic practices, pilot innovative grantmaking models, and collaborate with other funders to learn and achieve greater impact.

OUTCOMES
EMpower, funding partners, and philanthropic stakeholders continually adopt and learn from philanthropic best practice, and evolve their approach in ways that increase young people's role in decision making and catalyze more resources for effective gender-responsive programming.

IMPACT AIM
Marginalised young people are supported by a philanthropic ecosystem that values and integrates their needs, priorities, and solutions in key decisions.

Funders understand the value of inclusive gender-responsive philanthropy; mobilising even more long-term, financial support to the sector.

Assumptions

Grant Making

By receiving inclusive support from thriving local organisations, marginalised young people are better equipped to successfully navigate challenges, access opportunities, increase agency and live their potential.

Organisational Capacity Strengthening

Organisations that are operationally sustainable, strategic and robust will develop and implement more innovative and effective ways to support young people over the long-term.

When organisations foster and incorporate young people's perspectives within their strategies, they are able to more fully and effectively support them.

Specifically focusing on economic wellbeing, inclusive learning and safe, healthy lives for young people gives them the greatest chance of living their full potential.

Cross-Sector Strengthening

Facilitating connection and collaboration between peer organisations within and across geographic areas enables them to deepen and accelerate learning, creating more effective and positive impact on young people's lives.

Amplifying marginalised young people's voices in these collaborations ensures young people have agency in key decisions, and leads to inclusive strategies that reflect the context and needs of marginalised young people.

Philanthropic Mobilisation

Greater and more effective philanthropic investment in marginalised young people will result in stronger impact for young people - and this is particularly true when approached through a power-shifting, participatory framework.

Our Vision

We are building a world where **all young people at the margins, especially girls**, have the skills and opportunities to **live their full potential**.