

Girls LEAD Act

Girls' Leadership, Engagement, Agency, and Development Act of 2019

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It shall be the international development policy of the United States to—

- (1) promote and ensure that all adolescents from the most marginalized populations, including both girls and boys, are able to fully participate in society, and are specifically able to exercise their civil and political rights as agents of change in their communities and countries;
- (2) increase the capability of adolescents, particularly adolescent girls, in assuming leadership roles, holding decisionmakers to account, and influencing decision making at the household, community, and societal levels;
- (3) ensure meaningful engagement and consultation with adolescents, particularly adolescent girls, to ensure that United States foreign assistance initiatives, including the planning, implementation, and evaluation of projects, are effective and responsive to this input with a focus on country and community ownership;
- (4) ensure that consultation processes are transparent, voluntary, inclusive, safe, respectful, and responsive to structural barriers affecting adolescent girls' meaningful engagement;
- (5) actively work to decrease discrimination towards, and the abuses of, the rights of adolescent girls, particularly among the most vulnerable populations; and
- (6) utilize evidence-based approaches and practices in developing such programs, including taking into account the role of family, religious, and community leaders in creating supportive environments; the identification of mentors and role models; and the creation of safe spaces for adolescent girls.

CLD and Girls LEAD - At a Glance

- Adolescent girls' civic and political knowledge, advocacy, leadership
- Leadership opportunities
- Intergenerational mentorship opportunities
- Supporting meaningful political participation and engagement in civil society
- Addressing barriers to such civic engagement and political participation
- Integrating engagement of community leaders, religious leaders, schools



Systemically Strengthen CLD

- Integrating feedback from program participants into the monitoring, evaluation, and learning processes of relevant United States agencies
- Supporting girl-led and girl-focused civil society organizations with flexible, sustainable funding and technical support

Example of Girls LEAD

48 districts across 6 states

- Catalyze inclusion of women in rural governance as elected women representatives (EWRs) of Gram Panchayats (local villages).
- Strengthens quality of women and adolescent girls' civic and political participation
- Builds their confidence to lead local initiatives in their Gram Panchayats.

*In alignment with goals Girls LEAD Act: helps achieve positive impacts on food security and nutrition rates ✓, employment ✓, child marriages ✓, and quality education ✓.