

OXFAM NOVIB'S GUIDE TO YOUTH-LED RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND APPLICABILITY LESSONS



Youth-led research applies a model in which young people become researchers and are directly involved and engaged in all stages of the research process. This booklet summarises the methodology used and the applicability lessons drawn from one such youth-led research experience. We hope this guide will be useful for practitioners, researchers and others interested in implementing such an approach.

Youth at the centre: guiding methodology in youth-led research

About youth-led research

Youth-led research involves the **meaningful and central participation of young people in all phases of a research project**, from identifying relevant learning questions and methodologies, drafting a study design, data collection, and analysis to reflecting on results and projecting new ways forward. Typically, topics centre around issues that are important to young people and have a direct impact on their lives.

The focus is on the **lived experiences and stories of young people and those around them as they relate, interpret, and share them**. Aligned with Oxfam's commitment to promoting initiatives that are 'for youth and by youth,' the main objective is to place young people at the centre of development processes that directly concern them from which they are, however, often excluded.

Youth-led research can serve a dual purpose: **empowering youth and informing programmatic responses**. It is a participatory model in which young people are the main researchers and actively shape all stages of the research process, following Oxfam's approach of youth-led evaluation.¹ This way, young people and their perceptions and experiences are placed at the centre of the research process as they determine the scope, needs, and actions of a research or a programme intervention.