



Youth Leadership Project Proposal

Fiscal Year 2025

I. Organization Background

Journeys Within Our Community (JWOC) is a non-profit organization based in Siem Reap, Cambodia, dedicated to empowering youth from low-income families through education and leadership development. Our mission is to build a community of skilled, resilient, and socially responsible young Cambodians. We envision a future where all youth have equal opportunities to succeed and thrive.

JWOC has helped more than 2,000 young people over the last 19 years by giving them access to opportunities for education, skill development, and personal growth. Giving young people the resources they need to end the cycle of poverty and become change agents in their communities is the main goal of our work.

JWOC operates two core programs—University Scholarships and Better Futures—designed to support youth at critical stages in their academic and career pathways. The Scholarship Program enables low-income youths to complete university while developing essential life and career skills. Better Futures provides high school and post-high school youth with training that builds confidence, practical skills, and readiness for further education or employment.

All JWOC youths participate in our 21st Century Leadership Training, which cultivates communication, teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. They also lead youth-driven community projects, gaining valuable hands-on experience in planning and implementing initiatives that create meaningful local impact.

II. Project Introduction

Although young people in Cambodia are a strong force for progress, many do not have the chance to acquire the professional and leadership abilities needed to reach their full potential. Young people from low-income families in underprivileged communities, particularly those around the town of Siem Reap, have limited access to high-quality leadership training, mentorship, and practical experiences that equip them for active roles in community development.

The Youth Leadership Project was created to fill this crucial gap by giving high school and university youths an encouraging environment in which to develop into competent, self-assured leaders. The project intends to give participants the theoretical knowledge and practical tools necessary to organize, oversee, and lead significant community initiatives by drawing on the organization's experience in youth development and community engagement.

By encouraging leadership abilities and personal development, our Youth Leadership Program equips these youths to become significant leaders in their communities. Combining leadership workshops, mentoring, practical project implementation, and exposure to community-led initiatives.

III. Problem Statement

Young people in Cambodia comprise a sizable section of the population and have enormous potential to propel social and economic advancement. However, a lot of young people, particularly those from low-income and rural backgrounds, have limited access to mentorship, real-world experiences, and quality leadership development—all of which are critical for personal development and effective civic engagement.

The OECD (2015) states that a lack of appropriate education, life skills, and exposure to community leadership opportunities causes Cambodian youth to frequently struggle with integrating into the workforce and larger society.

Although it offers a starting point, the education system in Cambodia places little emphasis on soft skills like communication, critical thinking, problem-solving, and project management—skills that are essential for taking an active role in community development. Furthermore, young people frequently lack supportive environments and role models that would inspire them to take charge, lead, or come up with solutions to local problems. This disparity is especially noticeable in the neighborhoods around Siem Reap, where there is little access to formal leadership development and training programs.

IV. Beneficiaries Information:

JWOC works with 130 youths from low-income families across Cambodia, those who come to Siem Reap to study and seek job opportunities, as well as local youths from surrounding areas. Eligibility is based on financial need, strong motivation to learn, and a commitment to giving back.

V. Project Description:

Goal: To empower youth with leadership skills and confidence to become proactive changemakers in their communities.

Objective 1: To equip youth with leadership, coordination, and professional skills through hands-on training.

Activities:

- Conduct foundational leadership training workshops such as 21st Century skills (4Cs): Communication, Collaboration, Creative thinking and Critical thinking skills, Active listening, Motivation, Goal setting, Time management and problem solving.
- Facilitate project design and management sessions to help the youths identify community needs, plan interventions, develop budgets, and set measurable goals.
- Facilitate sessions that help youth understand how to monitor and reflect on the outcome of their projects.
- Organize peer-learning and idea exchange sessions to share experiences, receive feedback, and collaborate on project planning.
- Facilitate speaking series where youths meet professionals and alumni who experienced and overcame similar challenges to boost self-discipline, time management and motivation in tough times as well as effective communications and problem solving.
- Provide mentorship and coaching to guide youth through the project development process

Objective 2: To strengthen youths' leadership, coordination, management, and practical experience of community development.

Activities:

- Support youth-led mini projects, including seed funding, technical assistance, and reflection sessions post-implementation.
- Arrange exposure visits to successful community initiatives to inspire and inform youth-led action.
- Host mock project simulations on leadership roles to plan and execute a community initiative in a controlled environment.
- Arrange volunteer placements with local NGOs and the private sector to provide hands-on experience in leadership skills in a real workplace environment.

VI. Measure the Success

In order to measure the success of the project outcomes. The project will apply 4 main indicators:

- % of youths who demonstrate improved leadership and professional skills.
- % of youths who successfully design and implement community development projects
- % of youths demonstrate being inspired by their community engagement experience.
- % of youths who are satisfied with the overall project services.
- % of community beneficiaries who are satisfied with the youths' led projects.

The project is committed to reaching at least 85% target for each indicator and uses the survey methods to measure the outcome.

VII. Budget

Operation & Administration			
Items	Unit	Cost per unit	Total
Rent and utilities	12	\$149.5	\$1,794
Youth Leadership Facilitator salary	12	\$350	\$4,200
Program Coordinator salary	12	\$276	\$3,312
T-shirts (uniform) for youths	256	\$6	\$1,536
Total	\$10,842		
Training			
Items	Unit	Cost/unit	Total
Training materials and supplies	128	\$25	\$3,200
Seed funding for youth-led projects	25	\$150	\$3,750
Facilitation of Projects visit (Transport and meals for exposure visits and an appreciation gift for the partner who hosts the visit)	6	\$250	\$1,500
Facilitation of speaking series (snack, transportation stipend and gift for speakers)	6	\$125	\$750
Volunteer placement support and stipend for the youths' transportation	10	\$360	\$3,600
5% buffer for unexpected costs			\$1,358
Total	\$14,158		
Grant total	\$25,000		