

# Integrating Youth in USAID Programs



## Objectives

- Strategic Imperative of Youth
- Positive Youth Development (PYD)
- Adolescents and PYD
- Project Design & Youth Engagement
- BFS Commitment



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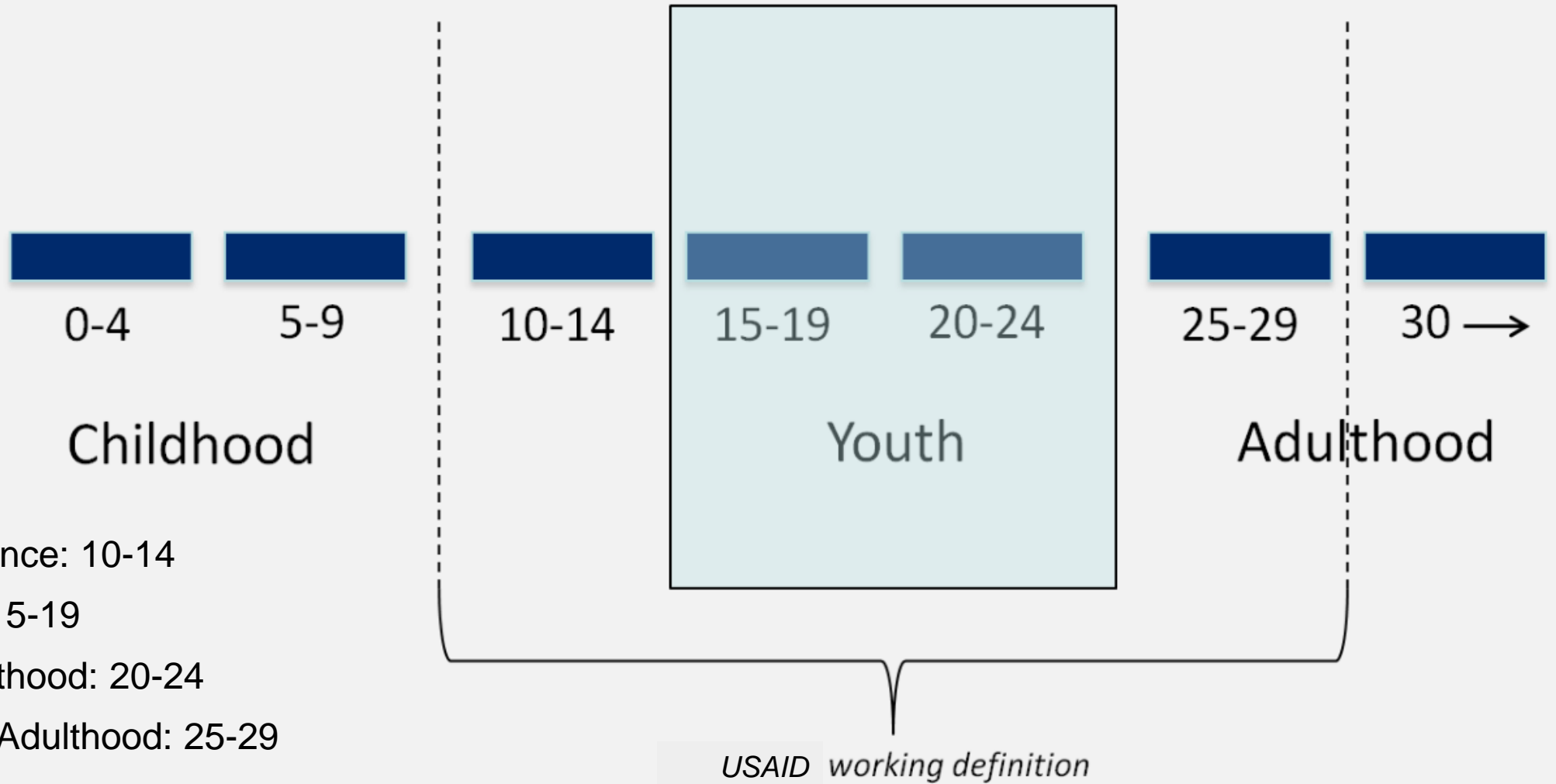
# YouthPower: Definition of PYD

Positive Youth Development (PYD) **engages** youth along with their **families, communities and/or governments** so that youth are **empowered** to reach their full potential. PYD approaches build **skills, assets and competencies**; foster healthy **relationships**; strengthen the **environment**; and transform **systems**.



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# Defining Youth



Early Adolescence: 10-14

Adolescence: 15-19

Emerging Adulthood: 20-24

Transition into Adulthood: 25-29



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# Quick Summary of Adolescent Brain

When is the brain fully developed?

Brain is fully developed in mid-20s.

What is the last part of the brain to be developed? Why is it important?

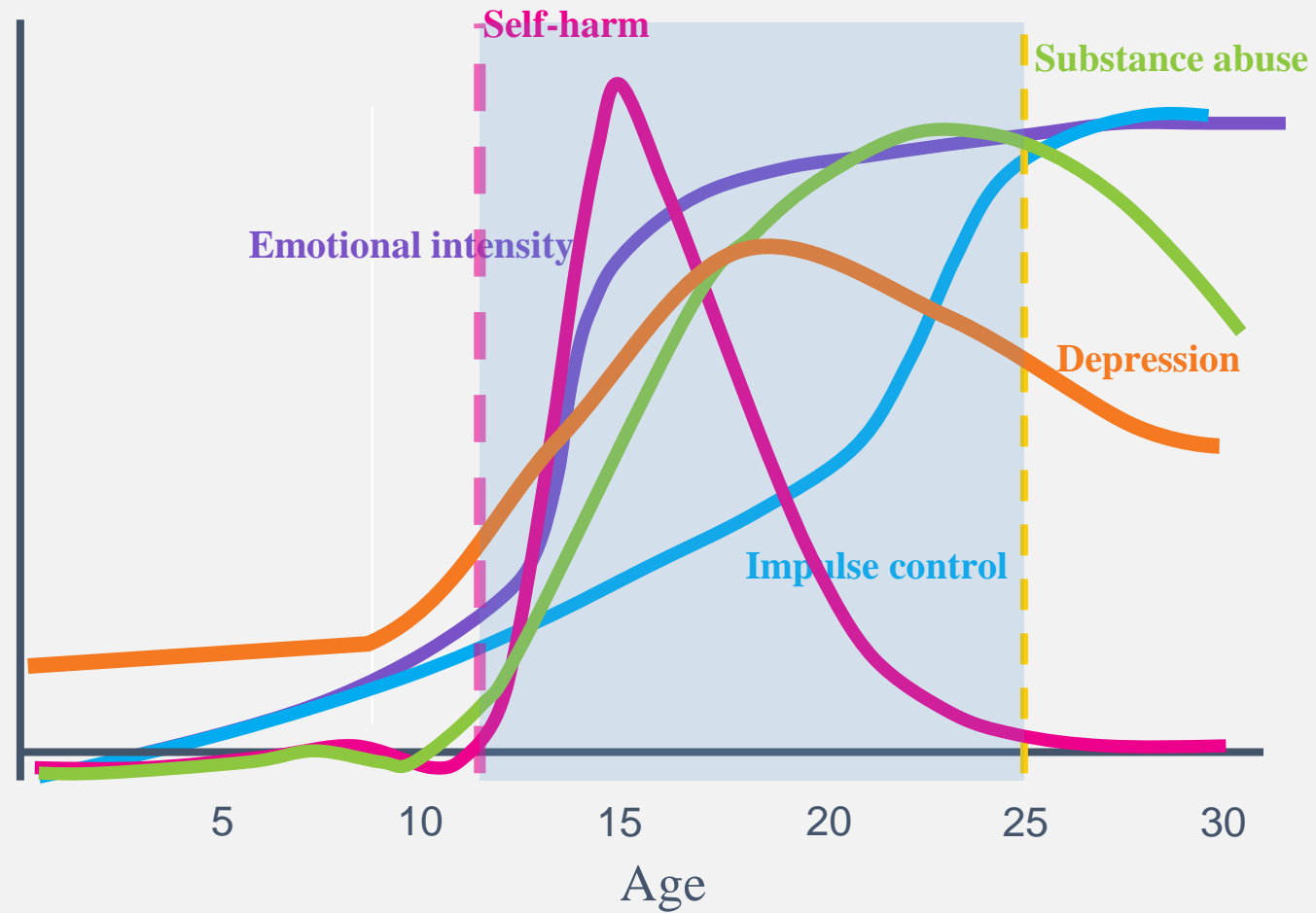
***Last part of the brain to develop is pre-frontal cortex***

- Planning
- Making decisions based on rational thinking
- Controlling impulses
- Organizing
- Setting goals

Which part of the brain is most active during adolescence? What impact does that have?

***The limbic system, the part of the brain related to sensory processing, emotions, and instincts is more dominant in adolescence.***

# The Big Picture



Source: George Patton,  
University of Melbourne



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# Why Adolescent Development?

- ***Needs and characteristics of adolescents and youth change at different points of their lives***
- Design development strategies that can meet adolescent and youth needs
- Know when within the life cycle and how to target adolescents and youth



# Key Features

- Build skills, assets, competencies
- Healthy relationships and role models
- Belonging/membership
- Clear norms, expectations and perceptions
- Youth engagement and contribution
- Safe spaces
- Access to integrated youth friendly services

Adapted from National Resource Council  
of the National Academies of Science



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# Hart's Ladder



**RUNG 8 - Youth initiated shared decisions with adults:** Youth-led activities, in which decision making is shared between youth and adults working as equal partners.

**RUNG 7 - Youth initiated and directed:** Youth-led activities with little input from adults.

**RUNG 6 - Adult initiated shared decisions with youth:** Adult-led activities, in which **decision** making is shared with youth.

**RUNG 5 - Consulted and informed:** Adult-led activities, in which youth are consulted and informed about how their input will be used and the outcomes of adult decisions.

**RUNG 4 - Assigned, but informed:** Adult-led activities, in which youth understand purpose, decision-making process, and have a role.

**RUNG 3 - Tokenism:** Adult-led activities, in which youth may be consulted with minimal opportunities for feedback.

**RUNG 2 - Decoration:** Adult-led activities, in which youth understand purpose, but have no input in how they are planned.

**RUNG 1 - Manipulation:** Adult-led activities, in which youth do as directed without understanding of the purpose for the activities.





# NEXT STEPS FOR FTF



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- Move toward a FTF strategy that applies PYD best practices
- Integrate youth explicitly into Feed the Future projects
- Build staff understanding of the Youth Development Policy and PYD

# RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOUTH MAINSTREAMING

## USAID/Washington Support

- Agency Youth Coordinator: Mike McCabe [mimcabe@usaid.gov](mailto:mimcabe@usaid.gov)
- Bureau for Food Security Senior Youth Advisor (hiring process); JSFellow
- Agency Youth Corps (cross-sectoral youth working group) – field and virtual support.
- ***YOUTH POWER LEARNING Global Task Order (Making Cents Int'l, ICRW)***

# SAMPLE BFS YOUTH EFFORTS

***Soybean Lab*** – Youth Mapping program (Ghana buy-in); Youth-run SMART farm (Ghana); Pan-African variety trials; Mechanization effort, jobs

***Horticulture Lab*** – Youth Training Center (USAID/Guinea)

***World Veg Center*** – Youth Agribusiness Hubs (Tanzania)

***SIIL*** – Cambodia (CeSAIN, high school techno parks), Senegal, Peace Corps

***Peanut Lab, Legume Lab*** – recently awarded, committed