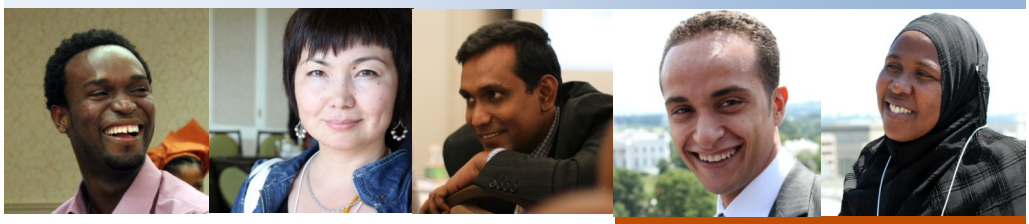
Community Solutions

INVESTING IN LEADERS FOR STRONGER COMMUNITIES



About the Community Solutions Program

The Community Solutions Program brings the best and brightest global community leaders working in Transparency and Accountability, Tolerance and Conflict Resolution, Environmental Issues, and Women's Issues from around the world to the U.S. for an intensive professional development program. Leaders bring years of experience to community development in the U.S. while strengthening their capacity for leadership and development in their home countries. Through tailored fellowships, leaders gain hands-on experience in community work; collaborate and learn best practices through an online leadership institute; and create action plans for community-based initiatives back home.

Program Activities

Four-month U.S. Fellowship: Community Solutions leaders work in community-based, non-profit organizations or government offices across the U.S. where they work in partnership with American counterparts to address local issues.

Community Leadership Institute (CLI): Community Solutions leaders develop leadership and organizational management skills through online courses and in-person training that complement their community placements.

Follow-on Projects: Community Solutions leaders develop follow-on community projects in partnership with their U.S. hosts. Follow-on projects will be completed after leaders return to their home countries.

"Working with Women's Crisis Support Team is a great opportunity to both give and take. I have the rare opportunity to share with others my Zimbabwean experiences, while at the same time taking good practices that will enhance the work we are doing in Zimbabwe."

Nixon Nembaware, Zimbabwe

Eligible Countries for 2012

Albania, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Hungary, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, West Bank/Gaza, Zimbabwe

Profile of a Leader:

Ricky Anywar

Home Country: Uganda
U.S. Host Organization: Fellowship of Reconciliation, New York
CSP Focus Area: Tolerance and Conflict Resolution

Ricky Anywar has worked in a variety of capacities on conflict resolution programming. He is Founder and President of Friends of Orphans in Uganda, working to reintegrate child soldiers into their home communities, train former Internally Displaced Persons in managing and resolving disputes, and increase food production in local areas. Anywar plans to implement youth leadership programs upon returning to Uganda.

In 2011, 64 leaders from 21 different countries are participating in the Community Solutions Program. These leaders are working at 57 different organizations in 27 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

"Being in this program is helping me to gain an understanding of how to engage citizens more in the political sphere and connect with experts and people working in this field so I can learn and provide them with my insights."

Savina Sirik, Cambodia

Application Information

For eligibility requirements and the program application, please visit http://www.irex.org/application/community-solutions-information-applicants or email csp@irex.org.

The Community Solutions Program is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State. Please see http://exchanges.state.gov/ for more information about ECA.

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